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# Lib Dems in shock as Ashdown calls time on 11-year leadership

BY ANDREW GRICE  
AND COLIN BROWN

PADDY ASHDOWN shocked his MPs last night by announcing he is to stand down as Liberal Democrat leader this summer after 11 years in the job.

Mr Ashdown, 57, insisted his decision had been taken so that he could spend more time with his wife, Jane, and their family. He said it had nothing to do with a rebellion inside his party against his strategy of forging closer relations with Labour.

Mr Ashdown said he would give up with "great sadness" but also with "some sense of achievement", as allies claimed he was the most successful Liberal leader since Lloyd George after doubling the party's number of MPs to 46 at the 1997 general election.

Mr Ashdown decided before the last election that it would be his last as Liberal Democrat leader, and he said he had told Tony Blair shortly afterwards. He had originally planned to announce his decision last year, but decided to see through his "unfinished business", such as extending the remit of a cabinet committee on which senior Liberal Democrats sit alongside Labour ministers.

The sudden departure puts a question mark over the close working relationship Mr Ashdown struck up with the Prime Minister. Mr Blair's aides stressed last night that he would not be defected from his goal of forging a new, progressive centre-left alliance.

But Mr Ashdown's policy of "constructive opposition" with Labour is bound to be the crucial issue in the June leadership contest to choose his successor.

Many of the party's 100,000 members, who will elect the new leader in a postal ballot, are hostile to his strategy.

At least five candidates are expected to enter the race. They are Charles Kennedy, the party's former president who is now its agriculture spokesman; Simon Hughes, the health spokesman; Menzies Camp-



Paddy Ashdown's surprise resignation has increased predictions of new jobs for him including an EU role or one monitoring the world's trouble spots

David Rose

bell, who holds the foreign affairs and defence brief; Don Foster, the education spokesman; and Nick Harvey, the campaigns chief.

Mr Ashdown's decision to stand down after the European Parliament elections may also put pressure on Mr Blair. Many Labour MPs oppose closer Lib-Lab links, and cabinet heavyweights including John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, will hope the change of leadership will put a brake on Mr

Blair's strategy. The Liberal Democrat leader dismissed speculation that he was standing down to take up a government post. Downing Street sources denied that Mr Blair would nominate Mr Ashdown to serve on the European Commission, saying the job would go to a Conservative.

Mr Ashdown made his announcement at the weekly meeting of his MPs at Westminster last night. Later he disclosed he would not have taken a cabinet post in a Lib-Lab coalition gov-

ernment. "I would not have taken a place in the Cabinet. I would have wanted to do that from the outside," he said.

He told Mr Blair at their first meeting shortly after the election to discuss their strategy that he intended to step down from the leadership in mid-term. Mr Ashdown told the Prime Minister last week that he would be announcing his departure after their clash at Question Time yesterday.

Both Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown agreed that their "project"

had been secured. The Liberal Democrat leader stayed on until the European elections legislation was on the statute book but he delayed his departure after the resignation of Peter Mandelson, the Cabinet's strongest supporter of close Lib-Lab links, fuelled speculation of a cooling of relations.

Mr Ashdown also wanted to ensure that the latest extension of co-operation with the Government went through last week, before finally deciding the date of his announcement. "I

didn't want anyone to think that the project which Blair and I were engaged in was going to be disturbed by those events," he said.

"I inherited the party in a complete mess. I wanted to hand the party over stronger with a clear strategy in a strong position engaged in government and doing something important. That is what I have been able to do," he said.

Lord Holford said the MPs at the meeting were "stunned, saddened and surprised". But a

handful of senior Liberal Democrats had been told at an earlier private meeting about Mr Ashdown's plans. Others had suspected for some time he was

planning to go, and were already privately forming rival camps.

The most relieved person at Westminster last night was Jane, Mr Ashdown's wife. "We never see each other. Weekends

belong to the party as well as the week."

In a letter to MPs, which Mr Ashdown read to them, he said: "Though I love being an MP, I don't want still to be one at 65. And that means not standing at the next election when I shall be 60."

Paying a warm tribute to Mr Ashdown last night, Mr Blair said: "He is one of the outstanding party leaders of his generation."

A spokesman for the Prime Minister said he viewed Mr Ashdown as "a politician of considerable distinction who makes a major contribution to his party and country".

He said: "Of course the links between the Government and Liberal Democrats will continue to develop both in Mr Ashdown's remaining time as leader and thereafter."

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# Nato forces mobilise against Serbs

BY KATHERINE BUTLER  
in Brussels

The US carrier Enterprise is moving into the Adriatic with the Nato contingent preparing for action in Kosovo

FACED WITH a brazen show of defiance by the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, Nato stepped up preparations yesterday for a possible military confrontation with Serbia over its treatment of Kosovo.

Nato ambassadors ordered planners to proceed with what officials insisted were "precautionary" measures. They shortened the notice required for ordering air strikes from 96 to 48 hours, ordered naval units in the Mediterranean to the Italian port of Brindisi, opposite Yugoslavia, and directed troops with the US 6th Fleet and the US aircraft carrier Enterprise to move from the Aegean to the Adriatic.

Tony Blair also made clear yesterday that Britain has not ruled out sending ground troops into Kosovo to force President Milosevic to desist. "We are ready to take whatever action is necessary," Mr Blair told the Commons. Milosevic "risks a rapid military re-

sponse from Nato" if he does not comply with United Nations Security Council resolutions demanding an end to the latest onslaught and a reduction in the level of the Yugoslav army and special police forces based in Kosovo. "We have to move with the rest of our allies, but we remain ready to act," Mr Blair said.

The US Defense Secretary, William Cohen, said the credibility of Nato was now "on the line." He said that any alliance military action would be aimed at reducing Mr Milosevic's ability to eat the region.

Yesterday's Nato decisions reflect the urgent need to convince Mr Milosevic that there is a credible threat of force if he fails to comply with a list of demands, including full co-operation with the International War Crimes Tribunal.

But the international community remains split on military

intervention and Nato is now facing a dilemma only deepened by the empty-handed return from Belgrade of the alliance's two senior generals after seven hours of face-to-face talks with Mr Milosevic on Tuesday.

Despite their ultimatum, he remained stubborn and inflexible and made clear he had no intention of complying with UN

demands on Kosovo. He defended the "anti-terrorist" operation that led to the killing of 45 ethnic Albanian villagers in Racak at the weekend. "Blunt and obdurate" was the assessment of General Wesley Clark, the Supreme Allied Commander for Europe.

With its credibility at stake Nato must now be seen to react

to the Serb provocations of recent days, and the conclusion of its own general that the October agreement on troop withdrawals from Kosovo have been all but torn up by Belgrade. Politically, however, there is less agreement than ever on a military response. A flurry of diplomatic activity is expected over the coming hours and days in a last-ditch attempt to force Mr Milosevic into compliance.

The political picture has been immensely complicated since October by the presence of over 700 potential Western hostages on the ground. These are the unarmed teams of verifiers sent in by the OSCE to monitor Serb troop withdrawals after the October peace deal. Air strikes are therefore not a realistic option unless the monitors can be evacuated safely first.

Nato's "extraction force" in neighbouring Macedonia is not yet equipped to do that and its commanders have admitted they would have to rely on SAS units to organise a high-risk rescue operation.

Transatlantic divisions have also resurfaced. The Americans are talking up the threat of air strikes, insisting that the Nato Activation Order agreed in October, authorising the first phase of an air campaign, remains in place. But among European governments the view is that a new UN Security Council resolution may be needed to authorise force.

■ Britain doubled its contribution to the Nato contingent preparing for possible action in Kosovo. The Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, announced Britain was sending another four RAF Harrier ground attack aircraft to join the four already there. The British frigate HMS Dido was preparing to head for the Adriatic from Gibraltar.

Alles cautious as Nato force gathers, page 13

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way

1 Democrat MPs and be supported by 236 ordinary party members  
Once the names of all candidates are in, there will be a re-membering vote being held across Britain  
Mr Heseltine could win over some of those who have their doubts about the relationship with the Government. He will appeal to the party's members across the country

## ASHDOWN RESIGNS

# Huge political achievements of action man who never lost his boyish bravado



DONALD MACINTYRE

IF TONY Blair gets his way by reshaping British politics then history will judge Paddy Ashdown as the biggest figure among leaders of the third party since the war.

He took over as leader of the Social and Liberal Democrats in July 1988, amid the wreckage of the Alliance break-up after the 1987 election. He left it last night with his goal of a realignment of the centre and left in British politics tantalisingly within its grasp.

He is also by a long way the longest-standing party leader in Britain, having outstayed two Labour leaders and two Tory ones in his 10½ years in office.

Mr Ashdown is an action man-turned-politician who has never quite lost the boyish excitement and bravado that led him into the Royal Marines at the age of 18, after he left Bedford School in 1963. A member of the Special Boat Squadron, and of MI6 (though he has never admitted it) between 1971 and 1976, he spent almost all his active political life as a Liberal, apart from one brief period as a Labour Party member when he was in the Army.

He is also one of the few serious politicians to have worked actively, as a labourer, as a personnel manager in industry, and as a youth officer for Dorset county council before he became an MP.

He took over his party at probably the most unpromising period in its history, and led it through an election in 1997 which secured it 46 seats, the biggest total since the 1929 election.

When he took over in 1988, the hopes and dreams of the Alliance – the uneasy marriage between the Liberals and the Social Democratic Party, which was supposed to replace the Labour Party as the main anti-Tory force in British politics – had collapsed in recrimination. The party he was taking over had become a joke – memorably dismissed by Margaret Thatcher two years after Mr Ashdown took over as a “dead parrot”. In November 1989 it was still languishing in the opinion polls, recording a mere 3 per cent.

Mr Ashdown himself was forced swiftly to abandon the



Paddy Ashdown, action man-turned-politician and the longest-standing party leader in Britain, having outstayed two Labour leaders and two Tory ones John Rogers

hopelessly ambitious vision with which he successfully fought his leadership election against Alan Beith in 1988 – that of replacing the Labour Party as the main party of opposition to Mrs Thatcher. But he patiently and steadily rebuilt the party over the next seven years by establishing a clear identity for it – and even more for himself. Familiarity might have bred contempt, and for many commentators it did. But after nine years as leader he still managed to score, during the 1997 election, a 58 per cent satisfaction rating – unheard of for an opposition leader.

But the more distinctive achievement was to set his party a clear strategy for dealing with Labour, for seeing that politics was about power and not posturing, and coaxing his members towards the sort of accommodation with Labour that stood most chance of achieving their most cherished

proportional electoral system for the European elections, the last through which Mr Ashdown leads his party; the promise of a referendum on electoral reform for the House of Commons; and places on a joint cabinet committee on what is now much more than constitutional reform.

In this course, he was helped since 1994 by dealing with a leader in Mr Blair who liked him personally, who thought the same way about most political and ideological issues, and who had fewer tribal roots in, and

should not be under-estimated.

A month after the 1992 election, Mr Ashdown made an important and lightly coded speech in Chard, Somerset, in which he sketched out a route map for abandonment of what had been a fiction since Mrs Thatcher's election in 1979 – that the third party was prepared to prop up a Tory government in a coalition.

The word for it was “equidistance” between Labour and the Tories, and it was quietly buried in May 1995.

But what showed Mr Ashdown to be a bigger figure than his critics suggested was his reaction to Mr Blair's leadership.

Mr Blair was suddenly the

new kid on the centrist block; for a time it looked as if a Blair-led Labour party would eclipse the Liberal Democrats.

At this point Mr Ashdown could have either given up politics, or eked out the rest of his political career in carping from the sidelines. Instead, he saw

quicker than many in his own party that Mr Blair was a hegemonic figure and that the best route to improving his own party's standing lay in eliminating wasteful conflict with Labour for the sake of it, while at the same time preserving his own party's identity.

The 1995 Littleborough and Saddleworth by-election was a

turning point; while it showed that there were indeed no “no-go” areas for Labour, it also showed that the Liberal Democrats, whose candidate, Chris Davies, withstood a vicious assault from Labour to win – were not going to be eliminated by Blairism. As a result, he

was able to enter the friendlier positioning towards Labour which started soon afterwards from a position of some strength rather than total weakness.

The fruits were tangible; spontaneous tactical anti-Tory voting across the country, and the Cabinet links since the general election. And given that he

decided before the election to depart in this Parliament, it is easy to see why he has been pressing so urgently for further, closer links – a joint statement with Mr Blair about working together in November; and the extension of the joint cabinet committee process to foreign affairs last week.

He has had a strong marriage to long-suffering Jane, which survived the affair he was revealed to have had with a secretary in the run-up to the 1992 election. In a coup of media management, Ashdown went candidly public on it, pre-empting a good deal of hostile press coverage, and in the process he became one of the first politicians to demonstrate that the British electorate is more interested in their professional performance than their sex lives.

Now a grandfather by retiring he will be able to repay his family for a decade of lost time. Invariably hyperactive, in 1992 he toured the UK, staying in the homes of ordinary voters, from fishermen to single mothers in the inner city, and wrote of his experiences in the book *Beyond Westminster*. It was a way of raising his profile, of course, but it also reflected his view that there was more to politics than the House of Commons.

In his range of interests he stood out in the notoriously parochial political village for his energetic and sometimes unfashionable pursuit of causes in foreign affairs, notably for more consistent allied intervention in the Balkans. He has been – in a party with a much broader streak of Euro-scepticism than is often realised – consistently pro-European and pro-EMU; he has been surprisingly steadfast in believing that Mr Blair will call a referendum on EMU, a mechanism which he was the first party leader to advocate.

The question is what his departure, announced last night, will mean for the slow process towards realignment, closer links between the two parties, electoral reform, and possibly, in the long-term, coalition.

Mr Ashdown himself is convinced that all the building blocks are in place. But it is hard not to see it as a setback. Mr Ashdown has faced almost as many critics of the process as his own party as Mr Blair has in his.

Mr Ashdown always said he wanted to leave when people asked “Why is he going?” rather than “Why hasn't he gone?” In that sense, it is a good departure by a leader on a high note. But both he and Mr Blair will be hoping that he has not under-estimated his personal importance to their joint project.



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Moments in Paddy Ashdown's life: In the Army (left); with his wife after he was elected leader of the party, and yesterday (far right) after announcing his resignation

Tim Hetherington (far right)

## Labour links thrown into doubt

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

THE UNEXPECTED departure of Paddy Ashdown puts a big question mark over the close links between the Liberal Democrats and Labour.

Although allies of Mr Ashdown and Tony Blair insisted last night the relationship would not be affected, MPs in both parties predicted that there would be a "distancing operation" after the Liberal Democrat leader stands down in June.

Relations with Labour are bound to be a critical issue in

the leadership contest to choose Mr Ashdown's successor. His policy of "constructive opposition" to Labour is unpopular with many grassroots Liberal Democrats, and so leadership candidates will be tempted to adopt a more cautious policy.

Much of the closer union between the two parties was down to the strong personal bond between Mr Blair and

Mr Ashdown, who met regularly in the run-up to the 1997 general election – often as a foursome with their wives.

Labour's landslide victory

was bitter-sweet for the Liberal Democrat leader. Although he doubled his number of Westminster troops to 46, he knew that his preferred outcome of a hung Parliament – and the prospect of a Lib-Lab coalition, which he had discussed privately with Mr Blair – would elude him during his spell as party leader.

But to Mr Ashdown's amazement, Mr Blair found time to telephone him on the day after his great victory. "The deal is still on," the Prime Minister told him.

The "deal" meant that, although there would not be a formal coalition, Mr Blair would work closely with the Liberal Democrats. After talks involving Peter Mandelson, then minister without portfolio, senior Liberal Democrats including Mr Ashdown were invited to join a new cabinet committee

responsible for discussing constitutional reform.

Despite some grumblings in his party, Mr Ashdown could point to real gains from this co-operation, as the Government agreed to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law and to bring in proportional representation for this June's European Parliament elections – a fitting swansong for Mr Ashdown.

Mr Blair was keen to forge even closer links, in the hope of forming a centre-left alliance

that would dominate the next century in the way the Tories had dominated the 20th century.

Last November, the two leaders secretly agreed to extend the remit of the cabinet committee to other policy issues. But both ran into immediate flak from their own parties, and Liberal Democrat MPs demanded a veto on which policy areas could be discussed.

Mr Ashdown was known to be angry at the caution of his troops, but came under further pressure because of Mr Blair's

refusal to commit himself to a referendum in this Parliament on electoral reform for the House of Commons.

Undaunted – and knowing he would stand down – Mr Ashdown managed one last advance this month when he and Mr Blair agreed the cabinet committee would discuss plans for a new European Union foreign and defence policy.

Labour critics of Lib-Lab co-operation, led by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, used Mr Mandelson's resigna-

tion last month as a platform to warn Mr Blair not to push ahead with closer collaboration. They will be delighted that Mr Ashdown's decision to quit will boost their campaign.

But Mr Blair will not be defeated from his historic mission. Whoever succeeds Mr Ashdown will receive the full force of the Prime Minister's charms. "We may have a temporary chill, but in the long run Tony Blair will ensure that warm relations resume," one Blairite insisted last night.

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## Prospect of a big job in Europe

BY IAN BURRELL AND  
KATHERINE BUTLER

to withdraw almost completely from the Liberal Democrats, not wanting to undermine his successor.

He said that ordinary people

would see the decision – after 11 years as leader and as he approaches his 50th birthday – as "essentially human".

"Indeed when I was first elected for Yeovil in 1983, I promised myself that I would not do the job beyond my 50th birthday and would stand down no later than the general election after that date. I believe that judgement was right," he said.

The soldier turned diplomat and politician has told friends he has no specific post lined up. But it is thought he believes he still has one more job left, although it is almost certain to be outside politics.

Whatever job he takes it will be one that allows him to spend more time with his family. In his letter to MPs, he wrote: "For Jane and myself... this will be a chance to rediscover parts of our life with our family and friends which have had to be pushed to the margins in these past hectic years." He is likely

to withdraw almost completely from the Liberal Democrats, not wanting to undermine his successor.

Mr Ashdown wrote: "No doubt there will also be new challenges to seek out. I do not know what they will be yet. But, I do know that, love this calling though I do, I have never been so obsessive about politics that I see it as the only thing there is in my life!"

Some party sources were

predicting last night that his future was in Europe where he has already won distinction by demonstrating a special understanding of the recent turmoil in the Balkan states and former Soviet Union.

The ideal role for Mr Ashdown might already have been

created as the prestigious new post of EU Foreign Policy Tsar.

Senior diplomatic sources speculated last night that Mr Ashdown now stands a very strong chance of becoming Britain's nominee for the position. The job is being created in response to the long-held com-

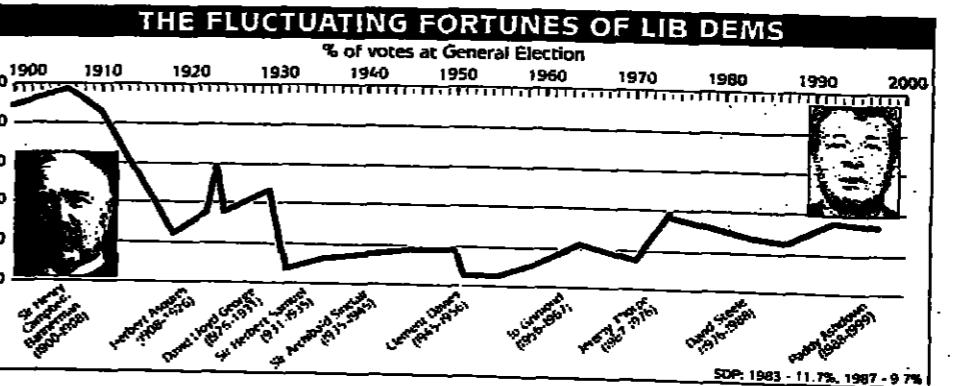
plaint that foreign heads of state never know who to ring at the EU when a crisis breaks.

The Government has already nominated Sir David Hannay, the former British ambassador to the UN. But EU leaders agreed last month that the post, known by its French acronym as Mr or Ms Pesc, must be given to an authoritative political figure rather than a career civil servant.

Mr Ashdown's immense energy and his passionate involvement in troubled spots such as Bosnia and Kosovo would enhance his chances, it is believed. Against that, he has never been a government minister and he is not yet backed by the two big European political "families", the Socialists and the Christian Democrats.

He would also be suited to a position with the United Nations or Nato.

Closer to home, Mr Ashdown's special interest is Northern Ireland. He served there in the Army, his family are from the province and he was teased at school for his Ulster accent. His links would attract him to a role working for peace.



## Voters of Yeovil praise 'colossal achievements'

BY MIKE BROWNHILL

FOR friends in Mr Ashdown's Yeovil constituency spoke last night of their sadness at his announcement and paid tribute to his "colossal achievements" for the Liberal Democrats.

A close friend and former constituency party chairman, Canon Miles Rakes, said Mr Ashdown broke the news of his resignation to him on Tuesday.

He said: "My first reaction is

gratitude for all that he has done for us both locally and nationally. When he came to this constituency we were in third place. Every seat in Somerset was held by the Tories, but now we have got most of them."

"Paddy's achievements have been absolutely colossal."

"My second reaction is this he has shown great wisdom in giving the party notice of his decision. He was thinking of the party as well as himself and that is typical of Paddy."

where he is and obviously he feels now is the time to go. I really don't know what he will do but he will probably step back into the background.

"I think that is what this is all about – he wants a home life and he certainly deserves one after such a lot of hard work."

Nick Speakman, chairman of South Somerset district council and Mr Ashdown's agent during five general election campaigns, said he had pledged years ago to stop being an MP by the time he reached 60.

Mr Speakman said: "This is not entirely a surprise because Paddy confided in me some years ago that he would not remain an MP after he was 60."

"I think that for anyone to be the leader of a third party who does not have all the advantages and trappings of a Prime Minister or of Leader of the Opposition is a huge strain."

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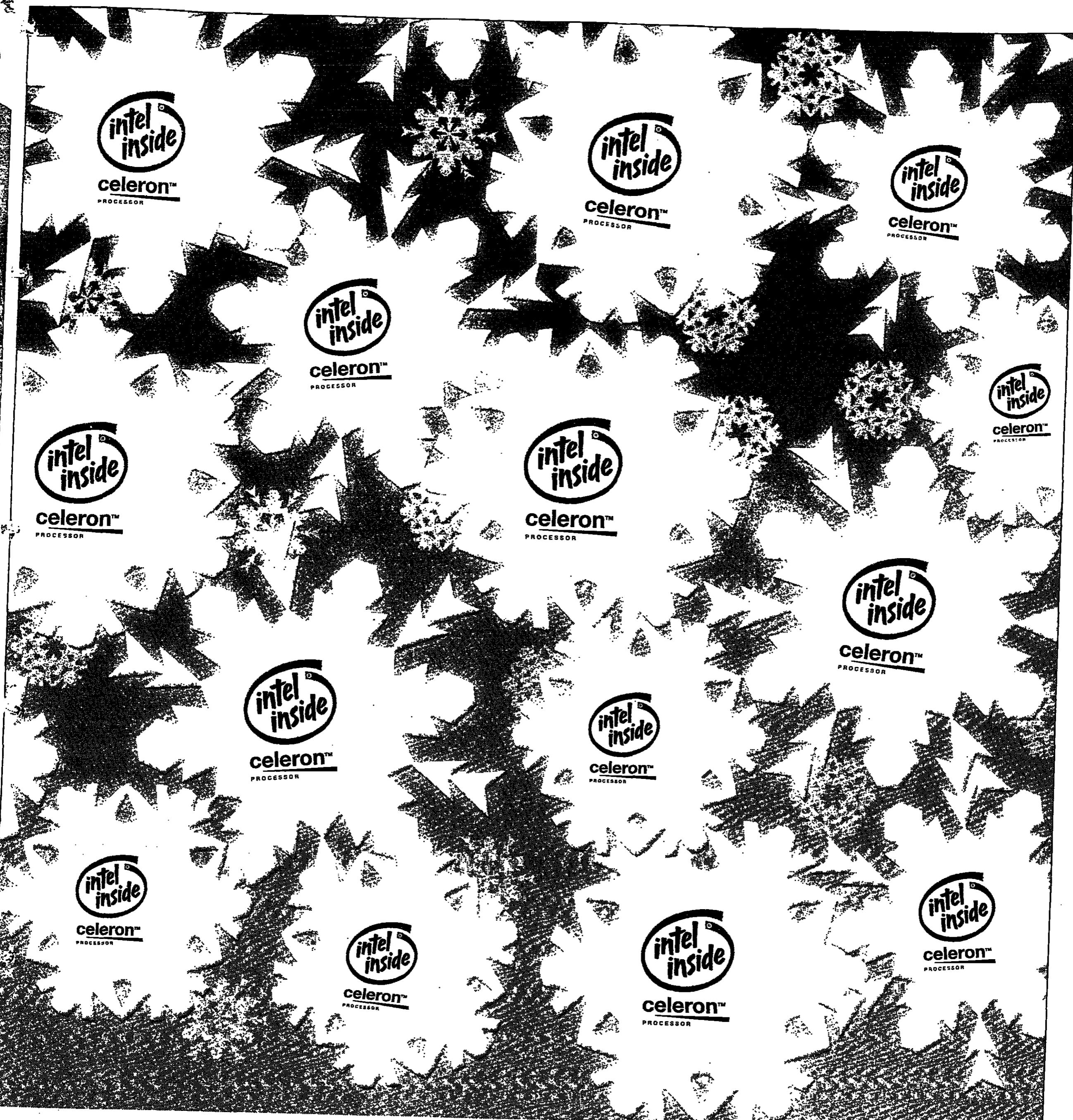
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## Two men trying to pass on a narrow mountain ledge

"WOULD THE Prime Minister agree with me that this is a great day for democracy?" asked Gillian Merton, first up in Prime Minister's Questions. She was referring to the Government's White Paper on reform of the House of Lords but the more pious-minded might have felt her remark was incidentally borne out by the 15 minutes that followed, an uncharacteristically grave and courteous exchange between the party leaders. The less pious-minded might have asked for their money back. I felt a pang of sympathy for those in the public gallery, who must have felt as you do when you've set the video for *The Fast Show* and get back to find that you've accidentally recorded a particularly dull passage of *Newsnight*. This sort of thing is all very well now and then, particularly if you worry about the intellectual reputation of the Mother of Parliaments, but if you care at all about attendance figures for Westminster's most popular cabaret session you would have to hope that aberrant rationality would soon pass.

It did, naturally - a Tory question about interest rates finally breaking the spell cast by the subject of Northern Ireland. As William Hague tried to persuade the House that the prisoner release pro-

gramme should be suspended and Mr Blair insisted on the opposite they acted with the meticulous civility of two men trying to pass each other on a narrow mountain ledge. Lose your footing on a matter of bipartisan agreement and you look bad all the way down. But when Mr Blair was finally knocked back into default mode and pulled out the rubber truncheon ("No more boom and bust") there was an eruption of pent-up mockery from Tory back-benchers. They had sat patiently through the violin duet but now the clowns were back on and they were determined to make up for lost time.

Over in the Lords the hereditary

### THE SKETCH



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

peers were listening to Baroness Jay confirm their order of execution. In his reply to her statement Lord Stratclyde had expressed the hope

that they would be spared "trite and facile denigration of this House and its members", a plaintive request from the condemned that the timber should travel in silence and that its occupants would not be pealed with ordure by the common mob. Baroness Young rose to note that this was a "very sad day for the House".

Baroness Young can imbue the word "modernisation" with such revulsion that you might imagine it was a sexual practice too disgusting for voluntary participation in it to be thinkable, but she was right about the melancholy of the occasion - a sense that for many peers

about his own future, it turned out, but those of the long-serving staff. Baroness Jay reassured him that they would be fully employed looking after the life peers. Lord Gifford was almost the last to speak, asking whether the Royal Commission might consider renaming the Upper Chamber as the House of Senators and for the first time there was a faint mutter of revulsion from the Conservative benches.

As it happened, Lord Strathclyde had already offered a better title for the awkward constitutional amphibian that will now painfully haul itself on to dry land - he called it Halfway House.

Lord Longford wasn't worried

## Hague calls for an end to early releases

THE TORIES came close to breaking the bi-partisan approach towards the Ulster peace process yesterday when William Hague told Tony Blair there should be no further early releases of prisoners unless a start was made on weapons decommissioning.

But while the Prime Minister agreed the recent wave of punishment beatings was "totally unacceptable", he said halting the early-release programme would wreck the Good Friday Agreement.

The exchanges followed a decision by Andrew Hunter, the Tory MP for Basingstoke, to postpone plans to "name and shame" the man he believes is the Omagh bombmaker after appeals for him to stay silent from Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Sir Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable.

Mr Blair stressed at question time that a difficult balance of judgement had to be struck and far from trying to damage the Northern Ireland peace deal, "we are actually calling for the Good Friday Agreement to be implemented".

Mr Hague, however, told a

**NORTHERN IRELAND**  
By SARAH SCHAFFER  
Political Reporter

silent chamber of the case Andrew Peden, who was tortured for 10 hours, left to die, lost both his legs, and "whose wife says he cries out every night as he relives what happened to him".

"Beatings like this are happening in increasing numbers, yet we are still releasing early prisoners belonging to the organisations responsible for these crimes. Would you agree these beatings are a breach of the Good Friday Agreement?" he asked Mr Blair.

The Prime Minister made clear punishment beatings had always been "a very difficult issue" which the previous government grappled with during the first IRA ceasefire.

Mr Hague said it was not right to compare earlier release schemes with the present one "because it was made very clear at the time that those who had committed the most heinous crimes would not be released until the first decade of the next century..."

He said: "You told me on May

6 last year, 'It is essential that organisations that want to benefit from the early release should give up violence'. You pledged to the people of Northern Ireland that terrorists would have to bring an end to bombings, killings and beatings, progressive dismantling of paramilitary structures and full co-operation with the commission on decommissioning.

"Given that none of these things are yet happening ... isn't it time to stop the early release of terrorist prisoners?"

Amid Tory protests, the Prime Minister said: "You have to follow through the consequences of what you are saying.

"We believe, on balance, this judgement is correct. But I don't, in saying that, minimise the difficulty of it. But the consequence of taking the course you are advocating is more serious than you are saying."

Sir Ronnie Flanagan had said on Friday there was no doubt that all the organisations responsible for the beatings, including those who purport to be in cessation of military operations, were engaged in this "repugnant activity", Mr Hague told the Commons.

Mr Hague

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# Peers warned 'don't look for a fight'

THE GOVERNMENT warned the 750 hereditary peers last night that it would scrap plans to grant 91 of them a temporary reprieve if they launched a "pitched battle" against the Bill to abolish their right to sit and vote in the Lords.

Unveiling the Government's two-stage plan for radical reform of the second chamber, Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the Commons, announced that ministers would accept the compromise agreed by Tony Blair and Viscount Cranborne, which led to his sacking by William Hague as Tory leader in the Lords last month.

Mrs Beckett told MPs the Government would back the Cranborne plan if it enabled reform to proceed by consent, but warned: "It is not a concession to be extracted by pitched battle. Indeed, pitched battle will jeopardise the proposal."

The Bill to scrap the 800-year-old rights of the hereditary peers, published yesterday, revealed that they would keep their titles and that, once they were removed from the Upper House, they could vote and stand in general elections.

The Bill confirmed that the five hereditary peers in the Royal Family - the Prince of Wales and the Dukes of Edinburgh, York, Gloucester and Kent - would no longer be able to sit in the Lords. But Downing Street insisted the move did not signal any change to Britain's hereditary monarchy.

Ending the hereditary rights forms stage one of the Government's plan. In a White Paper yesterday, ministers revealed their thinking on the second stage, which they hope to have approved by Parliament before the next general election.

The present House of Lords would probably be replaced by a partly elected, partly appointed second chamber. Although the White Paper did not set out a blueprint for how the members of the new chamber would be chosen, it suggested ministers were attracted by a "mixed system", which avoided either a wholly elected or appointed House.

The document said the Commons must remain "pre-

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

minent" and that the Upper House "must not usurp or threaten the supremacy of the first chamber". It said that a fully elected Lords would risk provoking conflict.

The tone suggested that Mr Blair is unlikely to back demands from Labour left-wingers and the Liberal Democrats for a predominantly elected second chamber. Ministers said that having some members appointed would safeguard the position of the cross-bench independent peers, who they say play a valuable role.

Ministers revealed that some members could be "indirectly elected" by the new assemblies being set up in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the planned re-

gional bodies for England. They believe this would help to allay fears that the devolution plans could weaken the Union.

Yesterday, ministers refused to be drawn on the balance between nominated and elected peers. They said that would depend on the functions and powers of the House, on which they would take final decisions after studying the recommendations of a Royal Commission, to be chaired by Lord Wakeham, the former Tory cabinet minister and chairman of the Press Complaints Commission. Gerald Kaufman, Labour MP for Croydon, will also serve on the Royal Commission.

The White Paper promised "a modern, fit and effective second chamber of Parliament for the 21st century". It said the Government would "make every effort to ensure that the second stage of reform has been approved by Parliament by the time of the general election".

But the Tories and some Labour MPs expressed scepticism that Mr Blair would stick to such a fast timetable. In the 500-member "transitional House", the Government said that no political party should have a majority. Mr Blair is likely to appoint about 50 new Labour life peers to give his party parity with the Tories, whose hereditaries currently enjoy a 3-1 advantage.

To answer the charge he will pack the Lords with "Tony's cronies", Mr Blair is giving up some powers of patronage. A new, independent Appointments Commission will appoint crossbenchers and invite nominations for people's peers.

The Royal Commission, which will report by the end of this year, will consider an enhanced role for the Lords in scrutinising EU legislation.

Although the Government will review the position of the law lords, this will fall outside the Royal Commission's remit. The Church of England bishops will remain, but ministers will look at ways of increasing the representation of other religious traditions.

Leading article,  
Review, page 3  
David Aarons, Review, page 3



A Bill to strip hereditary peers of their rights and a Royal Commission on the Lords announced yesterday will change life for these peers

## Tories attack 'half-baked' reform

BY SARAH SCHAEFER  
Political Reporter

LORD STRATHCLYDE, the Tory Leader in the Lords, spoke yesterday of his disquiet about the Government's proposals for a transitional Upper Chamber.

He said they marked a "sad day" for Parliament.

Launching his attack during the statement on Lords reform, he criticised the Government for failing to treat peers with the courtesy they deserved. "There is a deep sense of disquiet and regret about what you have announced, not because we always want to be as we are or where we do not.

"Are we not entitled to know in the long run where we are heading? We have seen no clear vision of the future for this

tion are gimmicks masquerading as solutions."

He was joined by Baroness Young, a Tory peer, who urged the Government to make "genuine" progress towards stage two of the reform. "Otherwise we end up with a transitional chamber dressed up in the new buzzword 'modernisation' and... legislation reminiscent of a sixth-form debate."

Viscount Cranborne, who was sacked as Leader of the Lords by William Hague for accepting the deal to keep the 91 hereditaries, regretted the Government was not reforming the Upper Chamber in "one fell swoop". In the Commons, Tony Benn, the Labour MP for

Chesterfield who relinquished his peerage to sit in the Commons, voiced concern about government plans to accept the Weatherill amendment.

"Short-term hereditary peers will rub shoulders with nominated people's peers who will have a job for life. We are entitled to an elected Parliament," he said.

Kenneth Clarke, the former Tory chancellor, accused the Government of having embarked on Lords reform with "no policy" at all.

"Ministers are hoping the Royal Commission will come up with one. But not so quickly as to interfere with the Government's legislative timetable for

the remainder of this Parliament," he said.

Donald Anderson, Labour MP for Swansea East, said Parliament should guard against the Lords becoming a "refined persons' home for politicians".

Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, argued the Royal Commission was a mistake. "We have got a parliament for Scotland, we are going to have a Welsh assembly, they're going to have another in Northern Ireland, in a few years there is going to be one in every region of England. Why on earth do we need a second Chamber at all? Adopt the Third Way - and get rid of it."

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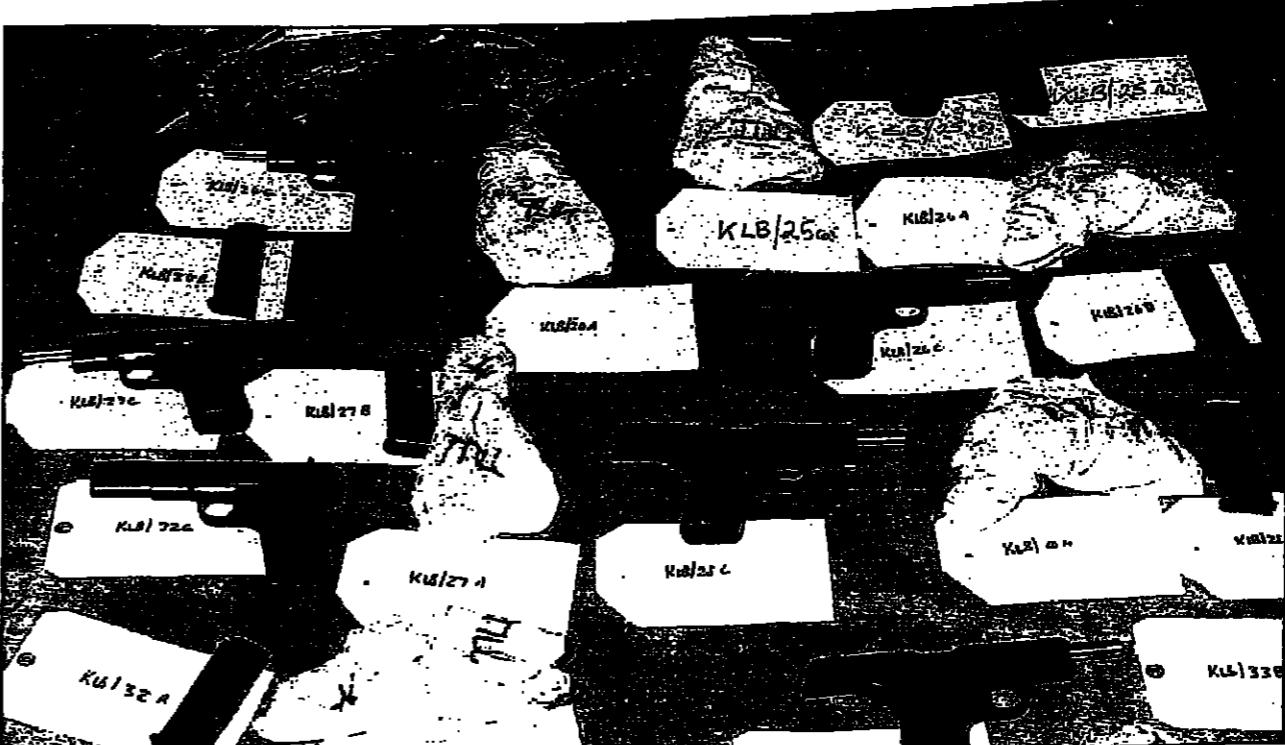
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# Gangland guns sold by bogus police officer



Former Special Constable Anthony Mitchell, left, pleaded guilty to five counts of dealing in firearms that had been seized from criminals after police raids

A FORMER Special Constable with a penchant for Harley-Davidson motorbikes makes an unlikely quartermaster to one of the country's most prolific suppliers of illegal guns. Nevertheless, police have netted a key figure in the underworld of firearms dealing.

Anthony Mitchell, 45, who on

BY JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

counts of illegal firearms dealing and possession, has been linked with the seizure of 130 guns from crime scenes. They had been used for murders, shootings against police officers and in gang wars.

For years Mitchell churned

out firearms at his workshop in an industrial estate in Hove, East Sussex. Almost all the dozens - possibly hundreds - of guns he supplied were supposed to have been deactivated. That is, they had been disabled so that they could not be fired but were "ornaments" for enthusiasts. The inquiry that led to Mitchell's conviction

also found his interest in guns further afield: he was in a group of impostors who travelled the world, pretending to be British police officers so that they could enter shooting competitions.

He first came to the attention of the former South East Regional Crime Squad - now the National Crime Squad - three

years ago. He was first named as a firearms dealer after a joint police and MI5 operation in 1997 that caught Paul Ferris, a criminal with a reputation for extreme violence, buying guns from John Ackerman, another dealer, from a street in Islington, north London.

In an Opal Fruits box police found three US 9mm MAC-10

sub-machine-guns. A favourite weapon of US crack gangs, they can fire 1,200 rounds a minute. Police also found silencers, ammunition and detonators. Ackerman, later jailed for six years, turned informer and named Mitchell as the source of the guns.

He was arrested in July 1997

but freed him after a search at the Hove workshop failed to find illegal guns.

But officers from the National Crime Squad, assisted by the Organised Crime Unit at Scotland Yard and Strathclyde Police, set up a surveillance operation and kept tabs on one of Mitchell's associates, who was found to have 2.7kg of plastic explosives, two shotguns and a sub-machine-gum at his home.

Mitchell used the fact that he did not have a criminal record to set himself up as a legitimate supplier of licensed firearms to gun clubs and collectors.

But his secret work brought in the real money. As an engineer he developed a technique to reactivate firearms that were supposed to be permanently out of action.

He obtained a ready supply of deactivated guns from shops and mail-order firms. His specialty, or trademark, weapon, was the MAC-10, which he reactivated by fitting a new barrel and breech block.

Police tests identified more than 100 MAC-10s - seized at the Old Bailey in London on Tuesday he was remanded in custody and will be sentenced on 19 February, when he could get a maximum jail term of 10 years.

After Mitchell's guilty pleas at the Old Bailey in London on Tuesday he was remanded in custody and will be sentenced on 19 February, when he could get a maximum jail term of 10 years.

Detective Constable Cliff Purvis, of the National Crime Squad, said: "Some of the weapons which bore the Mitchell 'signature' mark had been used in killings and to fire at police."

"I'm sure he was one of the major contributors to illegal firearms in this country - he was a big fish, there's no question of that."

Manchester. Mitchell was re-arrested in October 1997 and so MAC-10s were found at his workshop.

Police discovered during a search of his run-down terraced house in Brighton that their target shared his fascination for firearms with a group of gun enthusiasts.

With up to 12 other men Mitchell was part of a pseudo-SAS-style organisation known as the Black Shods, who dressed in black boiler-suits and webbing. The men had fake police identification cards, which they used to travel the world, including the United States, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium, entering police shooting competitions.

Videos and photographs were discovered of them competing for, and on occasions winning, trophies.

The police also discovered that Mitchell had been thrown out of the Sussex Police's volunteer uniformed Specials in 1993 after his gun connections came to light.

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"I'm sure he was one of the major contributors to illegal firearms in this country - he was a big fish, there's no question of that."

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# Smith: Ours is the best millennium

BRITAIN'S PLANS for celebrating the millennium are the most ambitious in the world, Chris Smith said yesterday. But the festivities will not succeed unless the British people throw their hearts into them, warned the Secretary of State for Culture.

More than £2bn is being spent by the Millennium Commission on projects that will open across the country at a rate of one a week from now until the end of 2000.

Mr Smith said the celebrations would make the UK the "global capital of the millennium" and earn it more than £2.5bn from increased tourism.

"The scale and quality of the enterprise ... is unparalleled," he said. "We've got further, faster in preparing for this year of celebration than any other country, and every time I go around the world, meeting my colleagues in other governments, they say how much they admire what we have done."

But with preparations in place and with less than a year to go, Mr Smith said the British people had to support the am-

bitious plans.

"The millennium is nothing if it does not carry a significance in people's hearts. People will not get involved in activities just for the sake of it," he said. "They will do so because they realise that the millennium is an extraordinary moment in time and, as such, offers the ideal opportunity to undertake something new, positive and interesting."

Mr Smith said that he was "absolutely confident" the Millennium Dome and the Jubilee Line underground extension, which is due to carry hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Dome, would be completed in time.

He said the Dome accounted for only one-fifth of the Millennium Commission's spending. There was one capital project for every 30 square miles of the country, including the Dynamic Earth visitor centre on geology and evolution in Scotland, which was awarded £15m, and a national space science centre in Leicester which was granted £23.2m. Smaller

awards of about £2,000 are to be given to more than 40,000 people for local educational, environmental and community projects. Some of the first recipients will meet the Prime Minister today.

The

British economy was also benefiting from the jobs boost created by many of the projects, Mr Smith said. Two thousand people are building the Dome, for example, and another 5,000 will be employed during the year it is open.

The

Secretary of State for Culture was speaking to an audience representing organisations preparing for year 2000 celebrations. It was his first appearance with his full team of millennium ministers, including Lord Falconer of Thoroton, Peter Mandelson's successor in charge of the Dome project. "We have just 346 days to get it right, but I am absolutely sure we will," Mr Smith said.

Figures from the British Tourist Authority predict that the annual total of overseas visitors will increase from 25.5 million in 1997 to 27.5 million in 2000, spending £14.7bn.

The Secretary of State for Culture, Chris Smith, says he is 'absolutely confident' the Millennium Dome will be ready by 2000 John Voos

## WHAT ABOUT THE REST?

**US:** Has founded the White House Millennium Council to celebrate the accomplishments of "this American century" and convey its heritage to future generations. Plans include: Connecting every classroom to the Internet; three-year preservation plan for the national archives; a free, year-long artistic festival at the Kennedy Center; tripling the size of the Peace Corps volunteers global learning partnership programme

**Australia:** Millennium postponed to 2001 because of the Sydney Olympics in 2000; massive waterfront party planned for New Year's Eve

**New Zealand:** Celebrations are focused on the east coast town of Gisborne, on the North Island, where the first sunrise of 2000 (after the tiny nearby island of Pitt) will be over Mount Hikurangi. Events include: A Pacific tall ships festival; a 1,000km First To The Sun bicycle ride for 2,000 people from Auckland to Gisborne; a festival of Maori culture and contemporary music. In Auckland, the city's millennium project group is staging a series of concerts

**Germany:** No special celebrations planned

**Brazil:** Extra spectacular fireworks display on Copacabana beach

**France:** The state is setting aside 400 million francs (about £36m), boosted with money from local authorities and business sponsors to celebrate. Plans include: A mass picnic on Bastille Day; a series of science seminars; concerts along the length of the Paris ringroad; grants to 10 young inventors

## Fate of 'Alcatraz' prison in doubt

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Prisons, and Stephen Shaw, the director of the Prison Reform Trust, who described them as "barren" and "cruel".

Mehmet and O'Connor are serving 27 years and 12 years respectively. The unit also houses notorious prisoners such as the hostage-taker Charles Bronson, who changed his name to that of the American actor, and the kidnapper Michael Sams.

The court was told Mehmet spent 23 hours a day locked in his cell. A psychiatrist had concluded that his continued detention in the unit would "produce psychotic symptoms in the extreme".

The centre, which was opened last February, is combined with two other units at Hull and Durham prisons to provide 53 places for the most violent inmates, with about 30 held at Woodhill.

Outside the High Court, Phil Wheasley, a senior Prison Service official, said the unit was becoming "better and safer".

The conditions have concerned Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of

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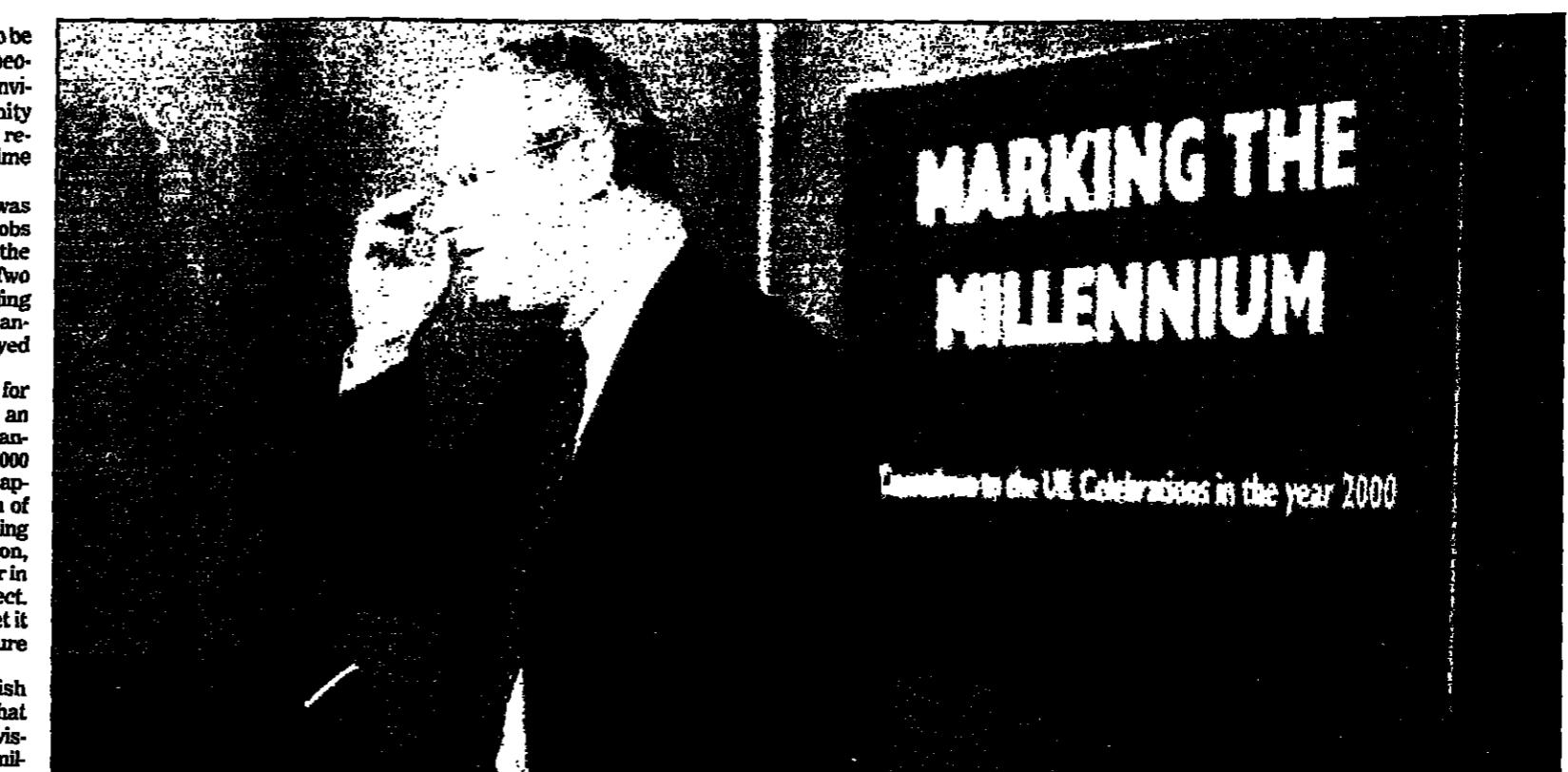
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The Secretary of State for Culture, Chris Smith, says he is 'absolutely confident' the Millennium Dome will be ready by 2000 John Voos

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KOSOVO CRISIS



The aircraft-carrier 'USS Enterprise', which is joining Nato forces in the Adriatic, providing additional means for a possible rescue of monitors in Kosovo

## Allies cautious as Nato forces gather in Adriatic



DESPITE YESTERDAY'S announcement of the despatch of more ships and warplanes to the Adriatic and a halving of the readiness time for air attacks, there is still some way to go before the West resorts to force against President Milosevic to end the Kosovo crisis.

The arrival in particular of Nato's Strike Force South, including the US aircraft-carrier *Enterprise*, will increase allied firepower and provide additional means for rescuing the 700 monitors from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Kosovo before any military action. But British officials said "this does not mean that air strikes are imminent".

The mood is different from October, when B-52 bombers

had their engines running, waiting to take off from British airfields. Acutely conscious of the lack of a "day-after" strategy, the major powers are today stressing more vigorously the need for a political solution – even though that has never looked more remote.

The dilemma is simple but deadly: what happens when you have bombed Yugoslav army installations and equipment, and perhaps solidified Serb popular support behind Mr Milosevic, while hastening Kosovo's moves towards the full independence which you absolutely do not want?

Thus the "twin-track" approach, as it is now being packaged: the pursuit of a political

settlement and simultaneous preparation of military action should all else fail. And, as Tony Blair acknowledged yesterday for the first time, this might have to include deployment of Nato ground troops.

But the underlying question is the same as when the ethnic Albanian insurrection in Kosovo burst upon the world's attention almost a year ago: will Mr Milosevic make the political concessions necessary to avert the use of force?

There are three immediate demands of the Yugoslav president: he must permit outside investigation of the massacre at Racak, rescind the expulsion order against William Walker, head of the monitors, and reduce his forces in Kosovo to the levels of February 1998, as stipulated in the October ceasefire deal with the US envoy Richard Holbrooke.

At the time, that part of the agreement was never spelt out precisely, but Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, told the Commons this week that 12 army and special police companies were "out of barracks" (ie in the field, suppressing ethnic Albanian "terrorists"), compared with a maximum of three companies agreed in October.

The next acid test of Mr Milosevic's intentions comes today, when he is to meet Knut Vollebaek, the Norwegian Foreign Minister and chairman of OSCE. He will stress that the

50-odd member-countries all approved Mr Walker's appointment, and were adamant he should stay on.

As the military track proceeds, so does the diplomatic. Officials from the Contact Group of leading powers will discuss the crisis in London tomorrow, and shortly thereafter their ministers will meet. Only then, at the earliest, would military strikes be undertaken.

But, as in October, the group is divided. The US is the most forthright in threatening military action, while Russia remains adamantly opposed. Britain, France, Germany and Italy are somewhere in between. Now as then, hope persists in European capitals that Moscow, whose deputy foreign minister is in Belgrade, will have some influence on the Yugoslav leader.

But few nurture illusions: "Milosevic will push to the very brink before giving ground," one diplomat predicted after the alliance's top generals came back empty-handed from Belgrade on Tuesday.

And what, for instance, if he permits Mr Walker to stay, and even allows in war-crimes investigators – but presses on with his crackdown none the less? Would that satisfy the West? Only one thing is certain: that no one is more skilled than Mr Milosevic at playing upon his own divisions and uncertainties.

## Monitor stays while Serbs attack villages

BY PAUL WOOD

A DEFIDENT William Walker, head of the International Monitoring Mission in Kosovo, returned to his headquarters yesterday apparently intent on ignoring a Yugoslav order to leave the country later today.

"It's good to be back," Mr Walker declared as he arrived in the regional capital, Pristina. He had earlier been advised by the chairman of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Knut Vollebaek, that it would be wrong to give in to the Yugoslavs' "outrageous provocation".

But as Mr Walker strode into his office, ethnic Albanian refugees were fleeing the latest outbreak of fighting. Serbian special police units clashed with the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army near the town of Mitrovica.

Reporters saw the bodies of two ethnic Albanians. One was covered with ammunition belts, and a machine gun lay by his side. The other was carrying a pistol.

Rebels said they opened fire after Serb forces shelled the nearby village of Vraganica. Dozens of frightened ethnic Albanian civilians fled the fighting aboard horse-drawn carts as the two sides exchanged semi-automatic and machine

gun fire. The Serb media also reported that a Serb mother and her two children were injured before dawn yesterday when a mortar exploded on their home in a village near Sipolje. One child, a 14-year-old girl, was seriously wounded.

Refugees were last night struggling through knee deep winter mud across the hillside in central Kosovo. One woman carried a young child on her shoulders. As KLA fighters went the other way many of the refugees made victory signs.

The police came early in the morning, one distraught woman said. "We didn't have time to get clothes for children. We just ran." Everywhere there was hope that Nato would intervene, along with disappointment about the international community's actions so far.

"We expected to have to suffer for a free Kosovo," said one KLA fighter, "but we did not expect to be betrayed by the West."

The chief U.N. war crimes prosecutor, Louise Arbour, left neighbouring Macedonia yesterday for The Hague, Netherlands, after having been refused permission twice in two days to enter Yugoslavia.

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# Clinton adulation eclipses the trial

STILL ON trial in the Senate for his job and his legacy, President Bill Clinton was riding higher yesterday than at almost any other time in his six-year presidency after a triumphant State of the Union address on Tuesday night and an impressive defence from his lead lawyer, Charles Ruff, in the Senate that afternoon. As his lawyers prepared for the second day of his Senate defence, opinion polls showed his job approval rate soaring, to 70 per cent and higher.

Basking in the adulation of his friends and the grudging admiration of many foes, Mr Clinton turned his back on Washington politics for the day and flew to New York State and Pennsylvania to take his message of a strong America, more energised - as he put it - and more prosperous than ever, direct to the people.

But even as he left Wash-

ington, one of the key policy proposals in his State of the Union address was coming under attack from Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. Questioned by members of Congress at a House committee hearing, Mr Greenspan said he opposed any measure that would lead to funds from the United States pension scheme being invested in stock markets. Mr Clinton had suggested that a part of the massive budget surplus be put into stocks to help head off the system's bankruptcy as the baby-boom generation reached retirement.

Mr Greenspan's remarks indicated an unusual divergence of opinion between the two men who are jointly credited with the unprecedented run of growth enjoyed by the US in recent years. Even though the ideas set out in the State of the Union address are presidential intentions rather than national policy, and must be enshrined in Bills or the Budget and submitted to Congress for approval, such an early rejection of a proposal from so authoritative a source is rare. Outside Washington, how-

ever, the fine print of Mr Clinton's address was less significant than the overall impression it created: of a supremely confident President at the peak of his authority, exulting in the successes of his term and a half in office.

There was no hint of any concern about the fact that his audience contained the more than 200 Representatives responsible for his impeachment - in that very Chamber - or the 100 Senators who are his jurors by day on the other side of the Capitol. Although the constitutional process set in train by the allegations about Mr Clinton and Monica Lewinsky a year ago is now in its final, and crucial, stage, there seemed not a cloud on the President's horizon. Some even feared that his very self-assurance might turn the Senate against him. "He is almost taunting them," one commentator said.

Outside Washington, how-

ever, the fine print of Mr Clinton's address was less significant than the overall impression it created: of a supremely confident President at the peak of his authority, exulting in the successes of his term and a half in office.

White House counsel Cheryl Mills in August, during the early days of the Lewinsky investigation

Reuters



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## Law team 'looks like America'

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

bringing and dour manner, lightened with occasional flashes of ultra-dry humour.

But overall the group gathered round the defence table presents a sharp contrast with the rest of the hall, which a sea of men of a certain age and caste, all of them white, and most of them greying in a distinguished manner.

There are only 10 women senators (out of 100) and no blacks, while the 435-member House of Representatives is scattered with black, brown and female faces. The 13-strong

team of prosecutors from the House of Representatives, while varied in age (from 40 to 74) and background, is all male and all white.

However the fate of Mr Clinton's defence rests with the Senate and today's summing up will be given by a newly co-opted member of the team - the just-retired Democratic senator from Arkansas, Dale Bumpers. Silver-haired and distinguished, a reputed orator in the old style, Mr Bumpers is a senator's senator.

Mr Clinton's team also includes two of the Clintons' Yale Law School contemporaries - Gregory Craig, who opened yesterday's session - and David Kendall, Mr Clinton's personal lawyer, a man of Quaker up-

team of prosecutors from the House of Representatives, while varied in age (from 40 to 74) and background, is all male and all white.

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The White House clearly judged that if it was to win over the Senate, it had to field someone who looked and behaved more like the Senate than the America of today.

### IN BRIEF

#### Four held over Delhi 'bomb plot'

INDIAN POLICE said yesterday they had arrested four people for allegedly planning to bomb the United States embassy in Delhi and two of its consulates. One of the men was Sayed Abu Nasir, a Bangladeshi.

#### Help for survivors of Leningrad

THE RUSSIAN Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, pledged 35 million roubles (£1m) yesterday for survivors of the 900-day Nazi blockade of Leningrad during the Second World War.

#### Fugitive found after 25 years

A MAN who fled from a jail in Virginia after serving two days of a one-year sentence for selling marijuana worth \$10,25 years ago pleaded guilty yesterday to escape. He faces up to five years in prison.

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A Khmer Rouge soldier stands near the body of Pol Pot on the Thai-Cambodian border the day after he died

# Pol Pot 'suicide' to avoid US trial

POL POT committed suicide last year after learning his Khmer Rouge rivals had offered to hand him over for trial on genocide charges, a Hong Kong magazine said.

But the US turned down the chance three weeks earlier to take the former Khmer Rouge leader into custody, because it had not prepared a legal basis on which to arrest and try him.

The former Cambodian leader blamed for the deaths of 1 million of his countrymen, is said by the *Far Eastern Economic Review* to have taken an overdose of tranquillisers and anti-malarial pills at a Khmer Rouge stronghold on the Thai border. He died on 15 April 1998, aged 73.

His associates said he died of a heart attack but within days Thai intelligence sources said it was poison and that it "got into his body with his consent", according to a Reuters report

By TERESA POOLE  
in Peking

at the time. No autopsy was done before the body was cremated and until now no one had come up with a detailed scenario of the circumstances surrounding the death. Before the cremation the Thai army took samples of hair, skin and fingernails.

Yesterday's *Far Eastern Economic Review* article was

by Nate Thayer, who has consistently scooped the world on Khmer Rouge reports. According to what he says are impeccable sources, Ta Mok, the one-legged rival Khmer Rouge military commander who captured the ailing Pol Pot and his entourage in 1997, offered to hand him over to the US for trial just before his death.

Mr Thayer said that on 25 March 1998 "the Khmer Rouge made a decision and contacted

the Americans to turn him over but the Americans turned them down. They had no legal basis to arrest and detain him".

The *Review* said Washington scrambled to establish grounds for an arrest and to find a country where a trial could take place for the carnage during the Khmer Rouge's 1975-79 rule, but "Brother Number One" was dead before preparations were complete.

He had discovered Ta Mok's plan when listening to a Voice of America radio broadcast, and killed himself, said Mr Thayer. "Pol Pot died of a lethal dose of a combination of Valium and chloroquine."

In the days before the suicide US officials had been consulting Thailand and other countries about capturing him but did not itself plan such a move, according to reports at the time. However, Pol Pot presumably knew he was likely to

be captured or handed over to face genocide charges.

The question of an international tribunal to try former Khmer Rouge leaders is very much a live issue at the moment following the surrender last month of two Pol Pot henchmen, Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea.

Since they gave themselves up they have been given a VIP tour of the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, and appeared at a press conference at which they said they were sorry for their roles in the deaths under the Khmer Rouge. "Let bygones be bygones," said Khieu Samphan.

The Cambodian Prime Minister, Hun Sen, at first hinted that a trial of the two men might not be in the interests of national reconciliation but recently said he supported legal action against the remaining Khmer Rouge leaders.

## Euro fraud inquiry runs into trouble

THE FUTURE of Europe's new fraud investigation committee was thrown into doubt yesterday as senior MEPs rejected as "unacceptable" moves to allow the "great and good" to preside over the inquiry.

The European Parliament's second largest political group demanded that the "wise persons" should be made up exclusively of judges, official auditors or prosecuting magistrates with a track record in fraud investigation.

The committee of inquiry is the centrepiece of a compromise deal struck last week in Strasbourg after a clash between the Parliament and the European Commission over fraud allegations.

A dispute over its composition could delay the process of setting it up and derail its tight timetable, destabilising the fragile agreement.

The manoeuvring followed speculation about the composition of the committee, due to inquire into irregularities in programmes presided over by two European commissioners, Edith Cresson and Manuel Marin, and produce a preliminary report by 15 March.

Potential nominees being discussed among socialist MEPs and in the Commission include the former European commissioners Etienne Davignon and Peter Sutherland, and two figures involved in the preparation for monetary union: Nigel Wicks, the former chairman of the monetary committee, and Alexander Lamfalussy, who presided over the European Monetary Institute.

Although confusion sur-

rounds the procedures for appointing the committee, Commission sources said they expect two members to be nominated by them, two by the Parliament, and a chair appointed by mutual agreement.

It emerged, however, that centre-right MEPs may demand the right for Parliament to appoint all the members – a move one political rival described as an attempt to "sabotage" the process.

James Provan, chief whip for the European People's Party, the Parliament's second largest grouping, said the idea of commissioners sitting in judgement was "completely unacceptable". He added: "They must have nothing to do with the institution concerned.

Whoever is appointed must be seen to be independent and fair-minded. This would include judges and members of the Court of Auditors."

James Elles, the party's representative on the Parliament's budget control committee, said: "You do not normally give the body you are inquiring into the right to nominate those doing the investigation."

The membership will have to be approved by Parliament on 8 February. To then expect their report to be available in 11 languages by 15 March is laughable."

Other political groups in the Parliament, including the Greens and the Liberal Democrats, are on record as being highly critical of the investigation procedure.

## Freetown left without food

EMERGENCY FOOD and medicines are unable to reach Sierra Leone's war-battered capital, Freetown, aid workers said yesterday. The shipments are held up by security fears and logistical problems.

An aid ship carrying 18,000 tons of rice from Italy was waiting off Freetown and could land the first significant food consignment since fighting engulfed the city two weeks ago.

"The captain says he wants guarantees of security before he will come to port," said a source at Ecomog, the Nigerian-led West African force defending the capital from the Revolutionary United Front.

Ecomog said on Tuesday it had cleared the rebels from the Kissy port area, and its officers said yesterday they were putting in place security for aid ships.

By JEFF KOINANGE  
in Freetown

But aid agencies in the regional centre in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, were more guarded. "Even if we have security, logistics will be a major problem," said a spokesman for the World Food Programme (WFP).

Foreign relief workers who fled two weeks ago have not yet returned. Local workers who stayed behind are trying to function without communications equipment confiscated by Ecomog, which accuses them of spying for the rebels.

Aid agencies have said that famine and disease could sweep through the city's population of about 1 million. The city has not even counted its dead from a battle that began with an RUF rebel assault on 6 January. (Reuters)

## VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

Should a mother throw out her drop-out son who has turned into a drug dealer?

IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW PAGE 8

SMOKING CAN CAUSES CANCER

Marlboro King Size  
12 mg Tar, 0.9 mg Nicotine

Chief Medical Officer  
Marlboro Warning  
9 mg Tar, 0.9 mg Nicotine

de  
rial

## Legacy of the Raj: fine railways and lousy borders

### FRONTLINE

CHAMAN, PAKISTANI-AFGHAN FRONTIER

THIS IS A border with no boundaries, boasting a frontier town with no frontier. Although the dusty fences at Chaman supposedly mark a division, with the low, wide desert plain around them officially split between Pakistan and Afghanistan, no one pretends that the border is where either country starts or ends.

From the Pakistani side,

Chaman is approached from

the city of Quetta – once,

with its cool mountain climate and

jasmine-scented air, one of the

most prized postings of British

India. The border is 30 miles

away, but Afghanistan starts al-

most the moment one leaves the

town. The ordered lines of

the army barracks dissolve

into sheep markets and

bazaars, potholes start to ap-

pear in the previously smooth

road and hedges – the hooded

cloak that women traditional-

ly wear while outdoors in

Afghanistan – begin to multi-

ply by the roadside.

The road winds through a

contorted, sun-bleached land-

scape pitted and hummocked

with dunes, bluffs and gullies.

be captured or handed over, face genocide charges. The question of an international tribunal to try senior Khmer Rouge leaders is as much a life issue as the survival of the last month of two of its henchmen, Kieu Seng and Nuon Chea. Since they gave themselves up, they have been given a tour of the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh, and apparently a press conference at which they said they were sorry for their roles in the deaths of the Khmer Rouge. "It goes by gone," said Mr Seng.

The Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, at first rather a trial of the two e- might be in the interests of national reconciliation, recently said he supported action against the remaining Khmer Rouge leaders.



It runs straight over craggy plains where small villages keep their mud-walled houses grouped together for defence. Then the road climbs the 8,000ft Khojak pass. Half-way up are the barracks of the 55th Pishin Scouts' Light Infantry Regiment, its officers' mess and stores. At the very crest of the pass, a surreal signpost points the way to "soltide hut".

Chaman itself sits in the

middle of a plain in a perpetu-

al shroud of sandstorms. The

army barracks dissolve

into sheep markets and

bazaars, potholes start to ap-

pear in the previously smooth

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us some lousy boundaries."

One such railway still runs from Quetta to Chaman. Almost all the passengers for the five-hour ride are taking the cheapest, if slowest, form of transport to or from Afghanistan. The locals completely ignore the border and are allowed to cross it with few checks. To most it is an irritation, little more.

To others, however, the border provides a livelihood. Astride his motorbike in the biggest of the town's bazaars Mohammed Ayub Achakzai – known as one of Chaman's biggest smugglers – laughs when asked how he makes his living. "I am just a trader and business is good. Big money, big money." He lays a fat index finger beside an acne-pitted nostril and winks.

With heavy tariffs imposed on goods entering from Afghanistan, smugglers can make huge profits bringing in everything from air-conditioning units to wood. The most profitable cargo smuggled through Chaman, however, is heroin.

JASON BURKE



Two Afghans on the border at Chaman. Locals see the border as little more than an irritant

Jason Burke



## Chinese jail man for 'Net dissent'

BY TERESA POOLE  
in Peking

CHINA JAILED a Shanghai computer entrepreneur yesterday for two years for supplying a US-based dissident magazine with 30,000 mainland e-mail addresses.

Lin Hui, 30, who acted for business, not political, motives, becomes the first known person punished by China in connection with dissent on the Internet.

China is cracking down in an attempt to increase supervision over how the Internet is used. The number of mainland Internet accounts has soared from 1.2 million in July to 2.1 million according to figures leaked from the Ministry of Information Industries, and Internet cafés have opened around the country. This week the authorities announced that anyone establishing an Internet café must first register with their local public security bureau claiming that some cafés were being used for "gambling and pornography".

Mr Lin's sentence was lighter than expected for China, probably because he was not involved in dissident activities. But his case coincides with a clampdown on such protests, which has seen four activists sentenced in the past month to prison terms of between 10 and 13 years.

Mr Lin apparently passed the e-mail addresses to the pro-democracy "VIP Reference" online magazine in an attempt to help his computer company to develop business contacts. "VIP Reference" is regularly e-mailed to a claimed 250,000 mainland computer users, each time from a different e-mail address so that it cannot be blocked by the authorities. It includes pro-democracy articles by exiled dissidents and news suppressed in China. Court docu-



Mr Lin: Business motives rather than political aims

ments yesterday described it as a "hostile foreign organisation".

Mr Lin's court hearing took place on 4 December, but the authorities appeared uncertain about how harshly to punish someone who said he was just trying to make money. Yesterday's guilty verdict in Shanghai on charges of inciting subversion of state power was attended by Mr Lin's wife, Xu Hong, who emerged crying. It was the first time she had been seen since his arrest last March.

China's wish to manage the Internet runs far beyond what is technically possible. The US-based publishers of "VIP Reference", for instance, had no difficulty e-mailing most of the foreign media in Peking about the impending sentence, which it described as a "landmark case of Internet persecution".

Meanwhile, the wider dissident clampdown continued yesterday with news that a founding member of the China Democracy Party had been expelled from Hangzhou University in central China days before he was due to finish his master's degree. Wu Yilong, 31, helped the dissident Wang Youcai to launch the party last June. In December, Mr Wang was sentenced to 11 years' jail for subverting state power.

Comment, Review, page 5

## Hong Kong press boss in fraud row

BY STEPHEN VINES  
in Hong Kong

year, the justice department failed to explain why she was not charged.

Paul Harris, a leading pro-reform barrister, said it was "incredible" that Miss Aw had not known what was going on in her company. He said "there is a widespread suspicion this decision was taken because of the important position of Miss Aw in Hong Kong."

The managers created dummy companies to buy up 14 million copies of the newspaper and thus claim that its circulation had almost doubled.

NGSES CANCER

Warning

Chief Medium

Nicotine

9 mg

Marlboro Lights

6 mg Tar 0.5 mg Nicotine

Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner  
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098  
E-mail: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk

THE INDEPENDENT  
Thursday 21 January 1999

# BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

### DaimlerChrysler takes Adtranz

ADTRANZ, the train maker which owns the former British Rail Engineering works in Derby, was taken over by DaimlerChrysler of Germany yesterday after it agreed to pay ABB \$4.72m for the 50 per cent of the joint venture company it did not own.

Adtranz is the biggest train maker in the world, with sales last year of \$3.7bn (£2.2bn) and 24,000 employees, but it has been forced into a programme of job cuts and plant closures across Europe to improve profitability.

### BA bid for CityFlyer goes to MMC

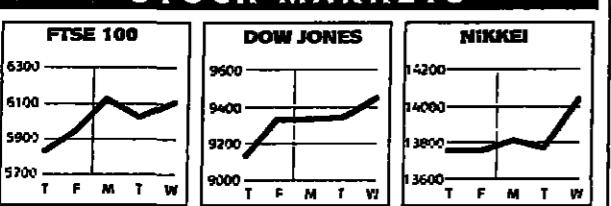
THE GOVERNMENT yesterday referred British Airways' £75m acquisition of its franchisee airline, CityFlyer Express, to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said the decision was based on competition concerns in the airline market. BA said it was disappointed about the three-month inquiry, but remained confident that the deal would be approved. The takeover would bring together the two biggest operators at Gatwick airport south of London. Virgin Atlantic had complained that it had not had a fair chance to counter-bid.

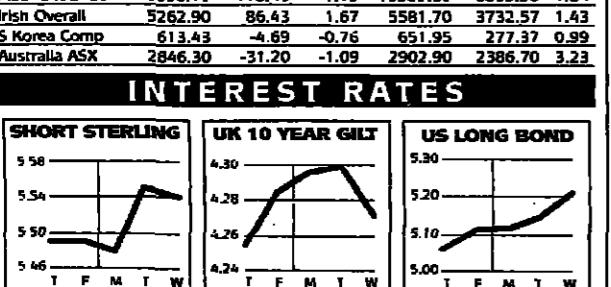
### Scandinavia creates telecom giant

TELIA AND Telenor, the state-owned telecoms providers in Sweden and Norway, yesterday announced plans to merge in a move that will create Europe's sixth-largest telecoms group. The Swedish and Norwegian governments said the deal would allow the combined company to compete with larger rivals such as Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom in the liberalised markets of continental Europe. The Swedish government will own 60 per cent of the shares in the company, which will have combined revenues of 80bn Swedish krona (£6.3bn). The new company will be partially privatised before the end of 2000.

### STOCK MARKETS



INDICES						
Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	6105.60	78.00	1.29	6195.60	4592.20	2.65
	4894.90	10.30	0.21	5970.90	4247.60	3.39
FTSE 250	2864.20	32.10	1.13	2969.10	2210.40	2.76
FTSE All Share	2760.57	29.83	1.09	2886.52	2143.53	2.80
FTSE SmallCap	2108.10	5.20	0.25	2793.60	1834.40	3.82
FTSE Fledgling	1187.60	5.10	0.43	1517.10	1045.20	4.24
FTSE AIM	818.20	10.10	1.25	1146.90	761.30	1.21
FTSE Eurotop 100	2831.64	35.41	1.41	3079.27	2018.15	1.09
FTSE Eurotop 300	1229.92	16.38	1.35	1332.07	890.63	1.01
Dow Jones	9441.47	85.48	0.91	9647.98	7400.30	1.62
Nikkei	14028.05	257.61	1.87	17352.95	12787.40	1.04
Hang Seng	10314.91	24.80	0.24	11926.16	6564.79	3.42
Dax	5143.06	69.91	1.38	6217.83	3833.71	1.67
S&P 500	1269.87	17.88	1.43	1278.05	923.32	1.25
Nasdaq	2469.99	61.12	2.54	2408.43	1357.09	0.28
Toronto 300	6780.10	-0.60	-0.01	7837.70	5320.90	1.60
Brazil Bovespa	7635.69	-87.89	-1.19	17339.14	4575.69	8.43
Belgium Be20	3491.13	12.41	0.36	3713.21	2489.40	2.04
Amsterdam Exch	5453.18	4.30	0.78	5600.65	3555.58	1.78
France CAC 40	4190.01	74.02	1.80	4404.94	2881.21	1.92
Milan MIB30	35382.00	269.00	0.77	39170.00	24175.00	1.15
Madrid Iber 35	10090.10	118.40	1.19	10889.88	6869.90	1.84
Irish Overall	5252.90	86.43	1.67	5581.70	3732.57	1.43
S Korea Comp	613.43	-4.69	-0.76	651.95	273.37	0.99
Australia ASX	2846.30	-31.20	-1.09	2902.90	2386.70	3.23



MONEY MARKET RATES						
Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg
UK	5.62	-1.80	5.45	-2.24	4.27	-1.80
US	4.97	-0.55	5.08	-0.53	4.78	0.80
Japan	0.52	-0.20	0.54	-0.14	1.87	-0.09
Germany	3.05	-0.50	2.99	-0.82	3.69	-1.38
Australia ASX	2846.30	-31.20	-1.09	2902.90	2386.70	-1.00

### BOND YIELDS

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# High street gets its wake-up call

THE DISMAL December retail sales figures bear a message about the economy and a message about retailing itself. They confirm – as if confirmation were needed – that the economy is slowing. Consumers, the driving force behind two-thirds of GDP, have become a great deal more cautious.

However, the broader outlook is not as bleak as prospects for retailing itself. The monthly consumer confidence survey by GfK, the polling company, revealed a modest improvement in consumer confidence this month, and all along has shown people to be far more upbeat about their personal finances than about the economy as a whole. This is consistent with a gentle downturn like the one in the mid-Eighties rather than a severe one like the early Nineties.

Yesterday's figures showed a slowdown in the growth of sales by value to the weakest since 1987, when the current records began. It reflected both weak volumes and lack of pricing power. There is no doubt that it is the latter: the disappearance of traditionally healthy margins, that is causing most anguish to retailers.

The British high street has to face up to a future as a low-growth or even declining industry. Part of its prob-



## OUTLOOK

lem here is the over-expansion of floor space, a cyclical phenomenon that will eventually be corrected. More seriously, traditional shopping is accounting for a shrinking share of our spending. As the average consumer grows wealthier, more and more of the pound in his or her pocket is being spent on leisure activities such as eating out, cinema-going and the gym, and on services, from haircuts to gardening.

On top of that, out of the blues has come the threat from non-traditional forms of shopping for traditional goods. Now that so many people have bought PCs and modems, on-line shopping is likely to grow at an explosive rate. Perhaps

book-buying is the model: customers can still be persuaded out to a store. They don't all buy through Amazon.com yet. But they now expect the experience of a cafe – armchairs and amenable surroundings.

The strategies that have brought success to retailers in the past will work less well in these changing circumstances. The downturn will just hasten the pain. No wonder retailers have joined manufacturers as the most vociferous lobbyists for more interest-rate cuts.

## Equity bubbles

ALAN GREENSPAN was at it again yesterday, albeit in more subdued form than last time. There were no references from the Federal Reserve chairman to "irrational exuberance", but there can be no mistaking the meaning of the following intonation, delivered in characteristically convoluted form: "The level of equity prices would appear to envision substantially greater growth of profits than has been experienced of late".

Is he right? Yes and no seems to be the answer. It tends to be forgotten in citing the continued re-

surgence of stock markets to the world's growing economic travails that for most companies the bear market is already more than six months old with little sign of abating.

What is keeping the stock market buoyant, both in the US and in Britain, is a relatively small number of global mega stocks which, because they keep merging with one another, just carry on getting bigger, progressively vacuuming up more and more of the world's supply of investment funds as they do so.

And even among the big companies, growth is confined to a quite small number of sectors. Generally speaking, the companies which are outperforming are in hi-tech, sunrise industries. Many of them don't yet make profits, but to distort Mr Greenspan's meaning, their stock prices envision greater profits growth than is presently experienced.

So there are two forces at work here. One is the "big is beautiful and even better if it's global" syndrome. The other is that of investing in our future, the new industries which might one day take over from the old. This type of investment has little to do with economic fundamentals or current corporate reality – it is all about hope. Some of this hope may

be reasonably well founded. But a lot of it isn't.

This week, British investors have been eagerly snapping up shares in any company which even hints that it might at some point make money from the boom in Internet traffic and electronic commerce. Shares in Zergo, a tiny company with a niche in Internet security software, have soared on the back of a series of strategic alliances with the likes of Intel and KPMG.

Even though these deals – which are little more than public declarations of friendship – have no direct impact on Zergo's tiny revenues, they have been enough to lift the company's market capitalisation over £200m.

Strangely, the market's treatment of Zergo looks sane compared to some of the other stocks that are enjoying an Internet-related boost. Executable analysts were yesterday trying to talk up Great Universal Stores, probably one of the most conservative retailers in the country, as an e-business of the next century. Not that Lord Wolfson is showing any sign of getting online. It's just that if he did, brokers reckon GUS could do quite well. The argument is clearly illogical. Just like Dixons, GUS is not going

to be a major beneficiary of the electronic revolution. For both these companies, online retailing is much more likely to be a way of protecting existing revenue streams from potential rivals, rather than creating new value. But then those share prices have to be kept moving ahead somehow, haven't they?

## Investor protection

HOWARD DAVIES, chairman of the Financial Services Authority, seems to be getting it in the neck from all directions at the moment. On the one hand he's criticised for creating an overbearing, unaccountable bureaucracy that if left unchecked, will smother the City goose under a mountain of regulatory red tape and drive its best practitioners off to the Bahamas, the Swiss valleys, or wherever now. Among comes the National Consumer Council to say that far from being too powerful, the FSA is not powerful enough.

As presently formulated, the Financial Services and Markets Bill makes "buyer beware" a core principle. The Bill includes a general consumer protection clause, but it also states that "consumers should take

responsibility for their own decisions". According to the NCC, this affords a far lower degree of consumer protection than is common for most non-financial products, which are generally guaranteed to meet a minimum set of standards.

Many of the NCC's suggested remedies are pure fantasy, and it seems utterly to have missed the point that there can be no guarantees when it comes to investing money. On the other hand, the NCC is right to point to the appalling lack of clear comparative information about different financial products, and to insist that in such circumstances, consumers cannot make informed choices that lead to poor ones.

It also correctly identifies the FSA's most glaring flaw – that it is meant to combine both wholesale and retail regulation.

It may be appropriate for wholesale customers to take responsibility for their own decisions, but the issue is much more debatable for retail investors. Still, if the FSA is thought both to be too tough on practitioners and too lax on investor protection, that may mean that in an imperfect world, Mr Davies and the Government are getting the balance about right.

Analysis: Britain has told Bonn that BNFL reprocessing contracts must be honoured or waste will be sent back

## UK warns Germany in nuclear fuel row

BRITAIN TOLD Germany last night that it would not back down in the nuclear fuel reprocessing row, warning that if Bonn reneged on £1bn worth of contracts with BNFL it would have to pay compensation and take back the spent fuel.

Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the German environment minister, Jürgen Tritton, that the costs of Germany's decision to phase out overseas reprocessing of its nuclear fuel should not be borne by BNFL.

After the 30-minute meeting at the DTI headquarters, Mr Byers said the UK would not act as a "permanent storage depot" for nuclear waste and that the contracts with Germany would be decided under English law.

The German decision has cast doubt over the £1.85bn Thorp reprocessing facility at BNFL's Sellafield plant, which employs 7,000, along with hopes of privatising the company. Thorp opened in 1984 and has

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

contracts to reprocess 11,200 tonnes of spent nuclear fuel up until 2014. So far about 1,700 tonnes have been reprocessed. It is one of only two such facilities, the other being Cogema's plant in north-west France.

Sellafield's reprocessing contracts with six German electricity companies account for about one-tenth of Thorp's £21bn order book. The deal with the Germans involves reprocessing just under 1,000 tonnes of waste. So far 650 tonnes have been delivered to Sellafield by boat and train. Of this, about 150 tonnes have been reprocessed.

Thorp accounts for just over a third of BNFL's £1.3bn turnover. Apart from Germany, it has long-term reprocessing contracts with British Energy and the Japanese. It also has a burgeoning nuclear clean-up and decommissioning business in the US worth around \$8bn. It also generates income from the

sale of electricity from its Magnox nuclear stations.

So were the Germans to renege on their contracts, it would be serious but not necessarily disastrous for BNFL. For the Germans, the repercussions could be much more severe.

Sir John Guinness, chairman of BNFL, says: "These are very robust and enforceable contracts. We would have no hesitation in seeking enforcement or full compensation through the courts if any of these contracts were not honoured in full."

But the Germans' troubles would not end there, for they would have a much more politi-

cally explosive problem to handle. The contracts would oblige them to take back the 500 tonnes of spent fuel yet to be treated, along with all the plutonium and high-level waste from the fuel that has been processed. "These deals are sale or return," as one adviser to BNFL put it.

Once spent fuel has arrived at Thorp it is separated into plutonium and uranium. The waste is broken down into three categories – high, intermediate and low level. The low-level waste is sent to the nearby Drigg facility, encased in concrete and covered over. The intermediate waste is being stored at Sellafield in liq-

uid form in giant lagoons inside the complex following the failure to gain planning approval for a deep repository on site.

But the high-level waste, containing 99 per cent of the radioactivity from the spent fuel, goes back to the customer. In the case of the Germans, they would have had to press to store 500 tonnes of spent fuel and have no facilities at all to store plutonium or high-level waste.

Werner Huber, board member German nuclear generator RWE, says introducing a ban on overseas reprocessing within a year is not feasible. "It will take at least five or six years before

which is sure to prove a flashpoint. There have already been several violent confrontations between the German authorities and anti-nuclear protesters over shipments of spent fuel.

Environmental groups here, such as Friends of the Earth, believe Germany's decision to end overseas fuel reprocessing is a blow in the coffin for Thorp.

Dr Dominick Jenkins, FoE's nuclear campaigner, argues that Thorp has already become an expensive white elephant. None of the reprocessed plutonium or uranium has yet been supplied back to customers, while the failure to get permission for an intermediate waste repository at Sellafield wrecks what economic argument there was for reprocessing in the first place. He predicts Sellafield will become simply a storage facility for spent fuel, if the world's nuclear industry bothers to send it at all.

But BNFL says it has enough existing storage capacity for intermediate waste to last a very long time. It is also confident of getting final approval for its new £300m Mixed Oxide Fuel (MOX) plant, which could produce operating profits of £230m.

A wider question is what impact the German row will have on the Government's hopes of privatising BNFL, which could bring in up to £3bn. City sources say the attitude in the Government and the Treasury towards a sell-off remains positive.

But FoE's Dr Jenkins maintains the City would drop BNFL "like a red-hot radioactive brick" because of its huge nuclear liabilities. BNFL has put aside £100m that it says will be enough to meet 75 per cent of future liabilities. But a report by Sussex University's Science Policy Research Unit puts BNFL's total liabilities at £21bn to £38.6bn.

## Labour Euro head blasts ECB secrecy

BY LEA PATERSON

THE HEAD of the European Parliamentary Labour Party yesterday launched a stinging attack on the structure of the European Central Bank, urging it to publish its minutes and improve communications with the general public.

Alan Donnelly MEP, who as a senior member of the Economic and Monetary Affairs sub-committee grills the ECB president on policy decisions, says: "With the best will in the world, I do not believe the way the ECB is established is sustainable."

Mr Donnelly, a pro-European, is tipped to be the next chairman of the influential sub-committee. He said he was concerned by the "trend of secrecy" at the bank. "I do think we will see a rather different ECB, still independent, but the way the ECB is established is sustainable."

Speaking at the launch of a major European study by the accountancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, Mr Donnelly criticised Wim Duisenberg, the ECB president, for being "too macho". "It would be very helpful if Mr Duisenberg realised he didn't have anything to prove."

Like many City economists, Mr Donnelly argued that the ECB should follow the example



Duisenberg: 'Too macho', says Alan Donnelly MEP

## Interest rates for Midland Private Banking customers

With effect from 21 January 1999

	Previous Gross %	Gross %	AER %
Private Banking Current Account (1)			
Up to £2,000	0.50	0.50	0.50
£2,000+	1.00	1.00	1.00
£10,000+	2.48	2.23	2.25
£50,000+	3.21	2.96	3.00

	Previous Gross %	Gross %	AER %
Private Banking Savings Account (1) (monthly interest option)			
Up to £10,000	5.13	4.89	5.00
£10,000+	5.32	5.09	5.20
£50,000+	5.42	5.18	5.30
£100,000+	5.70	5.47	5.60

	Previous Gross %	Gross %	AER %
Private Banking Savings Account (1) (annual interest option)			
Up to £10,000	5.25	5.00	5.00
£10,000+	5.45	5.20	5.20
£50,000+	5.55	5.30	5.30
£100,000+	5.85	5.60	5.60

	Previous Gross %	Gross %	AER %
Investment Management			
Cash held on the Capital Account within our Investment Management Service will earn interest at the following rates:			
Up to £5,000	1.00	1.00	1.00
£5,000+	5.15	4.91	5.00
£10,000+	5.35	5.11	5.20
£50,000+	5.44	5.20	5.30
£100,000+	5.73	5.49	5.60

Gross: the rate before the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings. AER: Annual Equivalent Rate. All rates are quoted per annum.

(1) This product is no longer available to new customers.

Midland Private Banking is a trading name of Midland Bank Trust Company Limited, a subsidiary of Midland Bank plc. This interest rate notice is issued by Midland Bank plc, PO Box 757, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP2 4SS.

Member HSBC Group

NatWest

Credit is only available to persons who are over the age of majority and is subject to status and conditions. Written quotations are available on request from National Westminster Bank plc, 41 Lombard, London EC2P 2BP or from any branch.





MAIN MOVERS														
RISES						FALLS								
Price	Chg	Td	P/E	Code	Price	Chg	Td	P/E	Code	Price	Chg	Td	P/E	Code
<b>FOOD PRODUCERS</b> 0.6500														
107 Hammonds	267.5	0.2	42	142	279.7	-0.5	43	119	27	365.0	-0.2	42	125	27
117 Hillman	169.0	-0.1	78	100	170.0	-0.1	78	100	170	170.0	-0.1	78	100	170
119 Morrisons	297.5	-0.1	60	1600	297.5	-0.1	60	1600	297.5	297.5	-0.1	60	1600	297.5
120 Tesco	325.5	-0.1	17	125	325.5	-0.1	17	125	325.5	325.5	-0.1	17	125	325
121 Asda	165.5	-0.1	52	925	165.5	-0.1	52	925	165.5	165.5	-0.1	52	925	165.5
122 Sainsbury	234.0	-0.1	55	1000	234.0	-0.1	55	1000	234.0	234.0	-0.1	55	1000	234.0
123 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
124 Morrisons	224.5	-0.1	16	1600	224.5	-0.1	16	1600	224.5	224.5	-0.1	16	1600	224.5
125 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
126 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
127 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
128 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
129 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
130 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
131 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
132 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
133 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
134 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
135 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
136 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
137 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
138 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
139 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
140 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
141 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
142 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
143 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
144 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
145 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
146 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
147 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
148 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
149 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
150 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
151 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
152 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
153 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
154 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
155 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
156 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
157 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
158 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
159 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
160 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
161 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
162 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
163 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
164 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
165 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
166 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
167 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0
168 Sainsbury	120.0	-0.1	52	250	120.0	-0.1	5							

# High returns from hi-tech investments

ANY SHARE with the most remote Internet connection is in danger of hitting the stock market heights.

The Internet vogue, with assorted computer and telecom associations, was one of the major driving forces in the market's latest advance which, for once, embraced shares outside the exclusive Footsie index. With US software giant Microsoft producing stronger than expected second quarter figures, the hi-tech brigade did not have to look far for inspiration.

Psion, the hand-held computer group, was a front-runner in the hi-tech stakes, soaring 118.5p to 845p. The growing popularity of a General Electric Co. bid was one influence. Another was indications that other groups had joined its Symbian joint venture aimed at promoting palm-top computer operations. But Psion, surprisingly, was reluctant to name any of the latest recruits.

Many obscure AIM stocks joined in the party. Intelligent Environment led what often seemed a mindless romp,

**SHARES OF BICKERTON**, the building contracting and property development group, firmed to 35p after lifting half year profits from £44,000 to £102,000. For the year around £200,000 in sight but it is next year that the AIM-traded group should start to perform with hopes running high profits will comfortably top £1.5m. The shares came to market two years ago and have been as high as 45.5p.

Surging 28.5p to 68p, Netcall, which said it knew of no reason for its share surge "other than perhaps intense current market speculation concerning valuations to be attached to Internet-related shares", jumped 35p to 85p.

Others were chased. Internet Technology raced ahead 42p to 141.5p and IS Solutions surged 62.5p to 287.5p. The list also included Recognition Systems, up 4p to 163p, and PhoneLink, 7.5p to 39.5p.

Even the stockbroker Durhach, renowned for its small company hi-tech and Internet links, joined in the fun with a 115p jump to 585p.

In-Line, which has become the mystery Internet share, was again seeking the stratosphere. It jutted a further 101p to 273.5p. The yearly shareholders' meeting came and went without any official word to the market. The company is a tiddler – even now its capitalisation is only £9m.

The shares started last week at 16.5p. Since then, directors have sold stock to – it is said – try to improve market liquidity. The company's portfolio includes Iron Wolves, said to be a submarine simulator, and Port and Dohle described as a "free multi-player puzzle game". Zergo, on its accountancy links, gained another 65p to 76.5p.

Top performing blue chip was the information group

## MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN



DEREK PAIN

Renters which, the market assumed, must have Internet connections. The shares rose 88p to a 889p peak. Profits due to be released next month, are expected to be down – Merrill Lynch is shooting for £570.5m against £534m.

Others caught on the world wide web included such telecom fanatics as Colt Telecom, 77.5p higher at 1.325p peak, and Telewest Communications, 13.25p at 263p. Misys added 25p to 375p and Sage 80p to 1.845p.

Great Universal Stores, 49p higher at 728p, was chased on its vague Internet links and Dixons, two emerging market funds with a 10.1 stake in the group, sought to replace half the board in a bid to break up the company. They were defeated by a narrow margin at a shareholder meeting last month.

Mr Asher said the costs of

covering 24.5p to 450p. But General Electric Co., the other half of the Marconi deal, continued to fall, losing another 21p to 525.5p.

Marks & Spencer, following criticism of its spring fashion range, gave up 9.75p to 337.5p and Cadbury Schweppes lost 34p to 920.5p on worries about its soft drinks sales and the failure of its arch-rival, Nestlé, to meet growth expectations.

Zeneca rose 66p (after 107p) to 2.834p. Rumours continue to swirl that its merger with the Swedish Astra drugs group will be challenged. Latest to assume the market's mantle as counter bidder is SmithKline Beecham, supporting the story by falling 11.5p to 880.5p in busy trading.

Shell, the oil giant, managed a 3.75p rise to 339p on stories from Paris it planned an alliance with Elf Aquitaine.

House of Fraser, the department stores chain, had another eventful session. The shares rose a further 4.5p (after 7p) to 92.5p in busy trading with Joe Bloggs creator Shami Ahmed said to

incredibly high. This company was completely disrupted for months and on top of this we have the monetary costs to advisers," to be revealed in this year's accounts.

On financial performance, chief executive Mark Newman said all Lourho Africa's businesses, ranging from Toyota dealers in Uganda to pig breeding in Kenya, had been savaged by the plunge in the continent's currencies.

Mr Asher said the company would try to improve performance by selling non-core and poorly-performing

CONROY DIAMONDS & Gold held at 59.5p on the fringe Ofex share market. The Irish explorer, created by Professor Richard Conroy, could be on the verge of establishing a significant gold mine in County Monaghan. Mr Conroy says there are indications the company may have "discovered the first major gold mine in the British Isles". He admits, however, there is "an awful lot of work to do". CD&G is capitalised at 57.5m.

The uninhibited rush to climb aboard the latest hi-tech bandwagon is reminiscent of the heady early days of the bio-tech boom when untried and untested groups roared

**SPOTLIGHT**  
share price, pence

have built a near 5 per cent shareholding. Field, the packaging group, actually collected a bid. The US group Chesapeake Corporation is offering 320p a share and Field rose 23p to 316.5p.

A threatened miners' strike left National Power under pressure. The shares fell 20.5p to 510.5p as workers at hard-pressed RJB Mining voted on strike action. RJB fell 3.5p to 52.5p. The mining group and NP are in talks to put in place guaranteed order for eight pits in Yorkshire, where 4,700 miners work.

British Airways dropped 14p to 375p. Chief executive Bob Ayling briefed analysts, prompting CSEB to cut its share price target to 330p. A Westminster decision to refer the f75m take-over of CityExpress to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission also hit sentiment.

British Steel, following investment meetings, rose 14.5p to 116p. CSEB put a target of 21.5m in 1997 to £13.6m before exceptions. Analysts expect flat profits of at least £21m.

Colin Glass, chief executive, said the group had expanded too quickly. He said he was self-critical about internal controls that had not been good enough.

AllDays, formerly known as Watson & Phillips, has grown rapidly, adding 200 stores last year to bring the total to 550. The

plunge was caused by pre-tax profits down from £21.1m in 1997 to £13.6m before exceptions. Analysts expect flat profits of at least £21m.

Regional managers struck deals with suppliers offering upfront incentives on equipment such as photocopiers, which they planned to book as profits this year. Instead the central management decided to spread them over three years, pushing down profits this year.

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# SPORT

Cricket: The Sri Lankan off-spinner with the unorthodox style is being spurned by sceptical observers Down Under

## Australia throws Murali off course

BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY  
in Melbourne

MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN is one of the world's great bowlers. At present he is being hounded around Australia. Where he should be lauded he is being ridiculed; when he should be hailed he is being spurned. Murali is a prince being treated as a scoundrel.

Quite simply, the Australians think the bewildering Sri Lankan off-spinner is a chucker. They have no firm evidence to support this contention and, actually, they have quite the opposite. Yet they have reached a conclusion, demanded a conviction and want to extract punishment.

They will not accept that an action which does not conform to the norm is legal. They said so three years ago through a series of umpiring calls and are saying so now, if thus far, more insidiously. It is distinctly unsavoury and it is seriously disrupting the Sri Lankan team and casting a large shadow over a one-day tournament in which England are competing tigerishly.

The media have made their point in all manner of ways, abstruse and explicit. The crowds at the Carlton & United triangular series have followed their lead. Each time Murali has come on to bowl he has been greeted with chants of "No ball." Officialdom has stepped in and stepped out again just as quickly, appearing initially to say that the bowler's action had been reported and then categorically stating that it had not.

It is an open secret that Murali

*"It's frustrating when people are shouting at you all the time - but, the more they shout, the more I'll be tougher"*

may be called by an umpire before this competition is done. That profession appears to have closed ranks but nods and winks have been distributed like gifts to International Olympic Committee delegates. No call came, except from the terraces, in Sri Lanka's first three matches. It may have arrived in the day-night match in Hobart against Australia but the hottest tip in town is that if it is going to happen it will happen this weekend in Adelaide. What ructions there would be.

Muralitharan is playing under tremendous pressure, intolerable scrutiny and probably has no plans to join his hundreds of thousands of compatriots who have made their homes in Australia. Last summer, when he took 16 wickets against England in a Test at The Oval in as entrancing a piece of bowling as you could ever wish or are likely to see, he was on top of the world. Five months on, he must feel he is in the gutter.

The team have tried to ensure he said nothing but, dignified though that was, he eventually broke his silence after some waiting television cameras. "It's frustrating when you go to the ground and people are shouting at you all the time, that's maybe the most annoying thing than anything else," he said. "But I think the more they shout, the more I'll be tougher. Other bowlers or other batsmen, when they hit a four or take a wicket, the crowd appreciate them. But with me it's the other way round." The only problem, he added, was in Australia.

The relationship between the bowler and the country has, as they say, form. Murali was 23 when he first came to Australia in 1995, at the start of his remarkable international career. Word quickly got around about the youngster with the

odd action: a bent arm which some were ready to say straightened in delivery. Once that sort of rumour gains wide circulation it does not fade. Medical declarations that his bent arm is generic and cannot be straightened and the apparent possession by one of his brothers of a similar generic rarity have been given no credence.

He was called seven times for throwing, unusually from the bowler's end, by the respected umpire Darrell Hair in the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne. Later on the tour, in a match against Queensland, the bowler was called again by Ross Emerson. Hair is not umpiring any Sri Lankan matches in this series after rubbishing Murali's action in a book last year; Emerson is standing in Adelaide this weekend. Controversy ensued but since then, it seemed, nothing - except a burgeoning career. Muralitharan has taken 203 wickets in 42 Tests, one

fewer match than it took Shane Warne to reach that amount.

Last August in England, he was a bowler at the top of his game, a finger spinner with corkscrew wrists which had a snap like a crocodile, wrapped over, under and beside the ball and purveyed magic. Whatever the England coach, David Lloyd, said about his unorthodoxy in an unfortunate interview which came across as grapes which were not so much sour as rancid, his action was accepted by the game's followers at large. Throwing comes under the segis of Law 24.2, which permits bowling with a bent arm but disallows that arm to be straightened - whether it be partial or complete, during that part of the delivery swing which directly precedes the ball leaving the hand. This definition shall not debar a bowler from the use of the wrist in the delivery swing.

but there is a suspicion that the whole affair is being propelled by something other than the intricacies (beautiful or criminal, depending on your view) of Murali's action. Not racism, exactly, but stemming from the strained cricketing links between the countries. The gossip grew so confused at

the start of the tournament that Peter van der Merwe, the former captain of South Africa who is the referee, was forced to deny that he had received reports about the action. In a statement the International Cricket Council said that, in any case, public comment by an umpire or referee is not consistent with

the confidential nature of its procedures.

The gist of much of the statement is that while umpires can, of course, invoke law 24.2 if they think fit, there is now another method to pin down dodgy actions. If an umpire or referee sees something not to his liking, the referee can request the home board in a series to instruct the TV network to discreetly obtain footage of the player from different angles using a mixture of normal speed and slow motion cameras.

The resultant video is then dispatched to the nine members of the ICC's advisory panel on illegal deliveries, who have video conferences. If, in their opinion, there is reason for doubt, the player's home board is informed and asked to withdraw him from international cricket for remedial action.

The panel also revealed that as recently as 1997 the panel had examined Murali's action and found it to be

fair. The panel has not, however, looked at footage of him bowling when Hair called him in the 1995 Melbourne Test and the ICC was also at pains to point out that what applied in 1997 may not apply now. "The panel can only decide on what has happened, not on what may happen," it said in a sentence as convoluted as Muralitharan's delivery.

It also transpires that an Australian scientific institute has scrutinised film of the bowler and declared the action legal; he creates an optical illusion.

Ranjit Fernando, the Sri Lanka manager, conceded that the harassment had affected the team's morale and that they had gone through a trauma, because of being subjected to what amounted to harassment.

"We firmly believe Murali's action has always been fair," he said. But, in Australia, Murali is in danger of being sentenced without trial.

## The disturbing truth behind Tyson's fading aura

AFTER SCANNING the many thousands of words that were tapped out last week about Mike Tyson and watching his performance against François Botha on television, two conclusions have been reached personally about the former undisputed heavyweight champion.

The first - and it allows for the disturbing effects of ghoulish media attention - is that Tyson has become a bore. The other, not by any means an original or ringing announcement, is that he will not be remembered as a truly great fighter.

Television's two dimensional restriction could not conceal from this viewer the technical shortcomings evident in Tyson before he



KEN JONES

delivered the short, stunning right that brought a fifth-round knock-out over Botha in Las Vegas last Saturday.

Long-range consultations with a number of good judges who were close to the action added to the

impression that Tyson would now probably be at risk against any well-schooled, resolute opponent.

In truth, Tyson is finished, only a ghost of the fighter who once spread terror throughout the heavyweight division, lessons imparted by his mentor Cus D'Amato long since forgotten.

When Tyson was launched on a career that became quickly spectacular, every version of the championship at barely 22 years old, he was clearly a programmed fighter; his natural power refined by D'Amato's tuition, responding to numbered combinations called out from his corner. D'Amato's death, a notorious split with trainer Kevin Rooney, and Don King's seductions left Tyson without critical ring guidance.

A three-year prison sentence for the rape of a beauty queen heightened fascination with Tyson, making him even more marketable, but it put paid to him as a fighter.

Suggestions that he could emulate Muhammad Ali's remarkable resurrection after a long absence from the ring were hogwash.

Apart from anything else, size comes into it. Tyson did not have Ali's talent for extemporisation. Realising that his leg speed, exceptional in a heavyweight, had gone, Ali first explored the extent of his will and then devised a method of smothering that was taken a daring stage further when he drew George Foreman's fire in Zaire before knocking him out to sensationnally regain the title.

The latent intellectualism attributed to Tyson has not shown itself in the ring. An aura of invincibility disappeared with the loss of his title to James "Buster" Douglas.

Unlike Ali, who was unique, he has been unable to compensate for the effects of inactivity.

I found it interesting last week to read that Tyson's latest trainer, Tommy Brooks, was sure of a response to his instruction. Assuming it meant that Tyson would again be employing a stiff jab, that he would be a more elusive target when coming forward and throw clusters rather than single punches, I looked for signs of improvement. There, in the first round, they disappeared once Tyson grew frus-

tated in his efforts to weaken Botha.

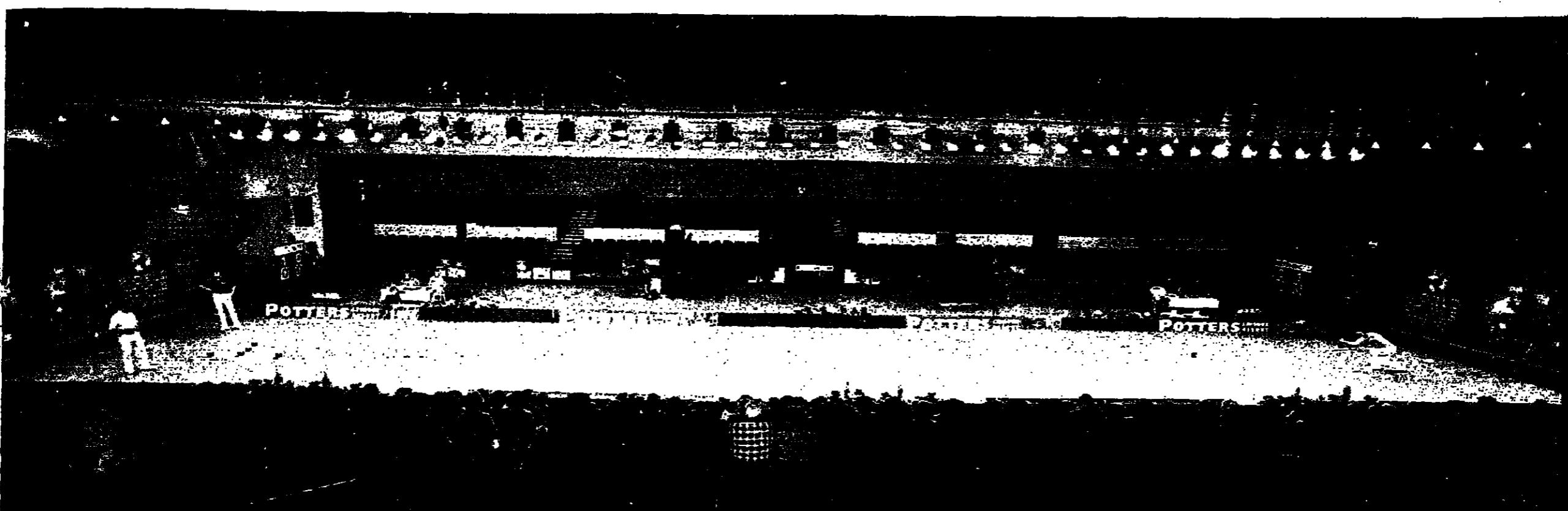
It reminded me of a conversation I had with Floyd Patterson when he was preparing Donovan "Razor" Ruddock to fight Lennox Lewis in an eliminator for the heavyweight title. After putting in a great deal of work Patterson was sure that Ruddock would enter the ring as a much improved fighter. Instead, at the first crisis, he reverted to type and did not last long against Lewis.

This was more, or less, the way things went last week in Las Vegas. Forgetting most of what Brooks had told him, Tyson concentrated on trying to dispose of Botha, who was not up to much anyway, with a single punch.

News came yesterday of a bizarre incident two days before the contest involving Tyson and a group of broadcasters who were waiting to interview him. "Call me nigger, call me nigger," he shouted at them. He then became tearful. "It was very odd, disturbing," I was told. "You couldn't be sure what Tyson would do next so we decided to tape the interview rather than go live with it."

Stories like that make people wonder what the future holds for Tyson, whether his violent mood swings will have a tragic outcome. Significantly, I think, there was no eagerness on the part of Tyson's television sponsors, Showtime, to talk up his effort against Botha. The implication in their silence is that they can see it will soon be over for him.

Bowls: Britain's oldest holiday camp has placed its faith in an unlikely attraction as it attempts to boost its image



How they see it: Spectators enjoy a panoramic view of the rink at Potters Leisure Centre while, below, competitors get down to action in front of a packed house at the World Indoor Championships

David Ashdown

## Tradition makes way for hi-de-hi life

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

DAVID LE MARQUAND did something rather daring at the World Indoor Bowls Championships this week. Are you ready? He used bowls which matched the colour of his shirt: yellow. Well, I mean to say...

Within the sport, according to Anne Dunwoody of the World Bowls Tour, Le Marquand's little innovation is regarded as "futuristic".

Evolution, rather than revolution, is the name of this particular game.

Imagine, then, the furore when the game's authorities decided to shift the World Championships from their home of the last 10 years at Preston's Guild Hall to the venue they currently occupy - Potters Leisure Resort, Coast Road, Hopton-on-Sea.

"People wrote to us to say it was like moving football from Wembley or snooker from the Crucible," said John Potter, whose family runs the centre on the Norfolk coast. "Even those who supported us said what we were trying to do was impossible." Like it or not, the traditionalists are going to have to get used to it. Having invested several millions in building the world's largest indoor bowls arena, the Potters have laid out a further £1.3m to host and sponsor the Championships for the next four years.

In return, they hope to establish a new clientele of paying - and staying - spectators.

*'It's very easy to be led here. You get a lot of people wanting to buy you a drink. If you get drunk as a skunk... you won't play very well'*

of coining an apt three-word phrase starting with letters in "resemblance". Herbert's masterpiece of wit: "Seldom Mutually Agreed" - provided Britain with its first holiday camp, 16 years before the young solicitor's clerk had responded best to their challenge.

The decision to seek the grey pound associated with bowls was a calculated risk by a company founded on a stroke of fortune by John's great grandfather, Herbert, who established the enterprise with £500 he received for winning a national newspaper competition. The now defunct *Sunday Chronicle* judged that the young solicitor's clerk had responded best to their challenge.

"The facilities are excellent," Les Gillett, one of the 16 seeded players this year, said. "The only minus is you can't get

restaurant, bars, gym, swimming pool - is deliberately intended to give visitors the sense of being on a cruise.

For bowls followers such as Sylvia Carter, staying throughout the entire three weeks of competition at a cost of around £1,200, the whole concept is working wonderfully. As she prepared to watch her favourite bowler, Ian Schuback, in action - "I first saw him at the 1988 Commonwealth Games and I thought 'Oh, isn't he gorgeous!'" - Sylvia reflected upon how it felt to be The Complete Package, to use the new alias bestowed upon her by Radio Norfolk.

privacy. If you have just lost, you want to get away to consolidate your thoughts. Here people keep coming up and saying 'hard luck' or asking for autographs. They mean well, but it has bothered a few of the players. You can't really go anywhere."

Should any of the tormented competitors make a dash for freedom across the surrounding windswept fields, you fancy they would be bounced back inside by one of the huge balloons that used to thwart the escape bids of Patrick McGoohan in the TV series "The Prisoner".

The holiday atmosphere may also have contributed to the discomfiture of the No 2 seed, Hugh Duff, whose unexpected defeat in his first match followed an evening of jollity in the bar which had concluded in the early hours. Some reports referred to the 35-year-old Scot as the nearest thing bowls has to a wild man. By all accounts, that is not very near at all - Alex Higgins he most certainly is not.

The sport's biggest problem, says the World Bowls Tour's chief executive, Gordon Dunwoody, is that it is seen as being a sport for old people. While the spectators at this year's championship - averaging 400 per session, which is up on Preston's figures - uphold that perception, Dunwoody points out that most of the top players are now in their 20s and 30s.

This is true. But if they are anything like Gillett, youngest of the seeds at 28, these players have such wise old heads on their shoulders that it is easy to see why the genial Duff stands out as an *enfant terrible*. Gillett, who broke through to the top level after winning the 1997 Bupa Open title as a qualifier, believes it is

up to individual bowlers to discipline themselves.

"It's very easy to be led here," Gillett said. "You've got a lot of people wanting to buy you a drink. But they serve soft drinks here as well as hard ones. If you get drunk as a skunk when you are due to play the next day, you won't play very well. At this standard,

you just can't get away with it."

Gillett's restrained preparations - single pints and plenty of practice on the same portable rink that was used in last year's Championships at Preston - appear to be paying off for him. While half the numbered seeds have made an early exit, he managed to win his opening match against the

Australian player, Steve Glasson.

Meanwhile, Sylvia, who has

had an unrivalled opportunity to study the form at first hand, has sorted out her own unofficial rankings for the competition, which ends this Sunday. "I have a feeling for David Gourlay," she said, with a smile.

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## Promise of fresh glory for Gregory

A spell of soul-searching in the sun has rejuvenated Super League coach after a bad year. By Dave Hadfield

AMID ALL the changes that have taken place at Salford as they prepare for what they believe will be a vastly better year than last, the most significant is that the glint is back in Andy Gregory's eye.

The club's coach, the longest-serving in Super League, despite the precariousness of his role, had a hunted, unhappy look about him during last year's rugby league season. "I couldn't wait for that season to end," he says. "Now I can't wait for this one to start."

The metamorphosis of Gregory has come just in time. His friends and admirers were worried sick about him last year as he went into a downward spiral that mirrored his team's troubles on the field.

"I was totally down and I didn't give 100 per cent commitment to the job, but this year I'm completely focused," he said. "It's been well publicised the problems I've had, but now I feel great."

The problems centred around the break-up of his marriage and a self-confessed descent into heavy drinking, not helped by taking over a pub at the precise time when he was most vulnerable.

"I think a lot of it was down to my divorce, which was totally



Andy Gregory, Salford's coach: 'What changed my life was two directors who took me on holiday' Peter Jay

of my own doing. What changed my life around was two directors of the club who took me on holiday. We talked about my problems with drink and they managed to convince me that I'd had a great career and I'd still got a great life. When I came back, I was a different person."

If that sounds like a bit of a

lavish advert for Gran Canaria, then his appearance and demeanour bear out the claims of a transformation.

For the first time since his

playing days as the finest

British scrum-half of his gen-

eration, he is working out reg-

ularly with his players and

looks fit and alert once more.

He is not claiming that he

does not have the odd pint - and

he opened a new pub, appro-

priately next door to the com-

plex that will house his old

club Wigan's new ground last

night - but the demons are

under control.

And, as the pain has lifted

from his shoulders, the mood at

the whole club has changed.

"It's the best atmosphere since

I came here," he says, "includ-

ing the season when we fin-

ished sixth in Super League."

Last season was a dreadful

disappointment after that

benchmark, with Salford drop-

ping to 11th place, and an air of disillusionment and crisis hanging over The Willows.

There were few weeks when

it did not look as though Gre-

gory might either quit or be

sacked, but the Salford chair-

man, John Wilkinson, stuck by

him and gave him the breathing

space to sort himself out -

something that Gregory will

never forget.

"Most of the supporters

stick with me as well, although

there were a few who were hav-

ing a go. They seemed to forget

what we had achieved here."

Gregory believes now that

he persisted too long with

some of the players who had

done a good job for him. Wilkin-

son has now backed his judge-

ment by allowing a major re-

structuring over the close

season. Even during a winter

notable for its transfer activity,

few clubs have brought in 11

new players and much of Gre-

gory's peace of mind will

inevitably depend on how well

he does.

"There are no excuses now,"

he says. "We've got a great

squad together, with competition in all positions, so now it's

up to the coaches."

Among the changes are a

complete clear-out of the over-

seas quota and the recruit-

ment of five new Australians,

who will add, between them,

some of the elements that were

missing last season, like ball-

skill in the forwards and pace

out wide.

"People who were critical

last season also lost sight of the

fact that we didn't have a proper

gym or training facilities. We

were like nomads up and down

the East Lancs Road."

That is something else that

has been put right for 1999 and

it is obvious just by looking at

Gregory that he has derived as

much benefit from it as anyone.

"I wasn't happy last year. I did

what I had to do, but I wasn't en-

joying it. Now I'm buzzing and

I'm delighted about the way the

squad has been training. We

came off the pitch today and just

said to ourselves 'That'll do us.'

He knows as well as anybody

that the most optimistic of pre-

season sentiments can evapo-

rate with an early series of de-

feats, but whatever it cost to

take Andy Gregory soul-search-

ing in the Canaries already

looks like money well spent.

"We will be successful this

year," he promises. As far as re-

discovering his own direction is

concerned, the success has

begun.

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# Forristal has the measure of old villains

**New faces for 1999: Despite his tender years and amateur status a young jockey has proved too wily for a racing rogue. By Greg Wood**

IT WAS in April 1996 that a horse called Fletcher made his first appearance on a racecourse. It was a successful debut, too, one which persuaded the *Timeform* race-readers at Newmarket that he was "sure to win again", but it soon became clear that the horse had other ideas. Over the next two-and-a-half years, 13 different jockeys tried their luck on his back, including Kieren Fallon, Pat Eddery and Michael Hills, in a total of 26 races. Though his ability was clearly intact, not one could persuade Fletcher to put it to good use. *Timeform's* commentators, their patience exhausted, allowed themselves a rare stab at humour. Fletcher was, they concluded, "a habitual criminal".

But then Richard Forristal climbed aboard for an amateurs' race at Ascot, and something astonishing happened - Fletcher won. Showing the steely nerve of a seasoned professional, Forristal delayed his run until the last possible second. By the time his mount realised that he was in front and tried to apply the brakes, the post was already receding.

Forristal, clearly, was not one of those amateur riders who thinks he is doing well if he simply points his horse in the right direction. Instead, while the race which first got him noticed was on the Flat, he is an amateur jump jockey from Ireland, which is often a different thing entirely. As it was for Adrian Maguire, who also arrived in Britain with a "Mr" in front of his name, amateur status is simply a useful starting point in Forristal's journey towards the senior ranks.

There are other similarities

*'In pony racing you go as hard as you can from the start and there aren't many stewards' inquiries. It's everyone to their own'*

McCoy and Declan Murphy among its recent graduates.

"It's the best experience you can get, because you have to look after yourself," Forristal says. "You go as hard as you can from the start and there aren't many stewards' inquiries. It's everyone to their own, and more than anything, it teaches you to be a bit hard-edged."

So much so that at just 15, he was ready to leave home for Britain, and with a job in Kim Bailey in Lambourn. It has been said that he simply walked up

to Bailey's front door and asked for a job, though Forristal says that this is a misunderstanding - "they knew I might be coming, I just left home a month earlier than I thought". His natural horsemanship was quickly apparent, both to Bailey and Conor O'Dwyer, the stable jockey at the time.

Competitive outings were generally restricted to the point-to-point field, however, until this season, when Forristal started to ride regularly under Rules. There have been 20 winners this term, and the only minor irritation is that he is not the leading amateur (Alan Dempsey, who is riding almost as many of Mary Roseley's runners as her stable jockey, has four more).

This year will offer his only chance of the amateurs' title, though, since financial considerations will force him to ride professionally from next season. "I'm looking for a sponsor" and turning professional is the next step. I couldn't afford to be an amateur for another season," he says. Unless Bailey's string hits peak form now until May, he will do so as a conditional, although as ever, the transition will matter in the one from conditional to senior.

"It would be a miracle if I lost all of my claim by the end of the season," he says, "but the hardest thing is definitely when you do lose your claim, or even

to Bailey's front door and asked for a job, though Forristal says that this is a misunderstanding - "they knew I might be coming, I just left home a month earlier than I thought". His natural horsemanship was quickly apparent, both to Bailey and Conor O'Dwyer, the stable jockey at the time.

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"It would be a miracle if I lost all of my claim by the end of the season," he says, "but the hardest thing is definitely when you do lose your claim, or even

when you go down to 3lb, whether people still want to use you. A lot of good jockeys are forgotten about when their claim is gone."

But at least one significant figure seems confident that he has the talent to move up and keep going. Dave Roberts, the agent to the stars with names like McCoy and Mick Fitzgerald

alb on his books, agreed to

represent Forristal at the end of last season. Roberts's famed ability to find spare winners could yet see Forristal pass Dempsey in the amateurs' title race, and should maintain the momentum as his allowance drops away.

At his current rate of progress, it seems inevitable that Forristal will begin the 2000-2001 season as a senior

rider; and one to be reckoned with. Horses run and jump for him, and as his ride on Fletcher demonstrated, he knows to the inch where the winning post is. For the next few months, he will effectively be a full professional with a 5lb allowance, and punters who do not take advantage could spend the next 10 years regretting their mistake.

## FORM GUIDE

Go Go Henry: Promising chase debut 2nd to Times They Change at Ludlow and good 3rd to Influence Peeler over same course next time but subsequent progress restricted by shoddy jumping. The one to beat with a clear round 2nd race.

Playford: Brad-foraging son of Arctic Lord who showed some ability over hurdles and will not need to be anything special to figure on his racing debut.

Hightown Cavalier: On the slide since 2nd to Wimborne over C13 months ago from 8lb higher. Needs something better to beat him.

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## 3.50 LEVY BOARD JANUARY CONDITIONALS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,000 added) F3 2nd 11/10/99

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FA Cup focus: A former Tottenham man can improve career prospects by plotting Arsenal's demise

# Lee winning the mind game

BY PHIL SHAW

**FOR** A man steeped in the so-called Tottenham way, having played alongside Hoddle, Ardiles and Perryman in their pomp, Colin Lee carries a dark secret. Long before he sported White Hart Lane's cockerel crest, he wore the crown of their fiercest rivals.

On Sunday, Lee's Wolverhampton Wanderers side will try to break Arsenal's hold on the FA Cup in the fourth round at Molineux. As well as giving the First Division club a chance to avenge last year's semi-final defeat by the eventual Double winners, the tie has stirred memories for their manager of his previously undocumented "career" as a Gunner.

Now 42 and in charge of Wolves since the autumn departure of Mark McGhee, Lee was a 16-year-old centre-forward with Bristol City when Arsenal asked whether they could borrow him to play in a youth tournament in Madrid. Frank Stapleton had broken an arm, so Lee made the trip.

"I did all right," he recalls. "We got to the semis before losing after having two lads sent off by a diabolical referee. Before one game we watched bullfighting on television. Liam Brady was like a matador with the ball that night - no-one could get it off him. Glenn Hoddle was the best player I ever played with, without doubt, but Brady was close."

When Lee did arrive in north London, it was with Spurs. Amid the drama of his debut, when he scored four times in a 9-0 rout of Bristol Rovers, the Highbury connection was overlooked. "I kept it quiet," he laughs.

In a sense Lee has come full circle since his Spanish adventure. For he is again holding the fort, having been told that the position will be reviewed at the end of the season. This time, however, he is no mere understudy. Should he guide Wolves into the play-offs, let alone into the Premiership, the job would surely be his for the taking.

The reluctance of the chairman-owner, Sir Jack Hayward, to commit himself more fully to Lee probably owes more to a determination not to be stuck with another lame duck than to any doubts about his ability. The former No 2 has made a reasonably persuasive start, his 13 games producing six wins and four draws.

His record certainly compares favourably with McGhee's last 13, only two of which were won, and with Lee's own unhappy introduction to management. After adding Chelsea and Brentford to his



Eyes on the prize: Colin Lee casts envious eyes around the trophy room at Molineux and hopes he can play a part in reviving the good old days

Peter Jay

playing portfolio, he was coaching with Watford in 1990 when he was thrust into the void left by Steve Harrison's sacking.

It was a time of great upheaval at the club. I took over in March but Elton John sold up that summer and I ended up having to sell the best players.

The next season started badly

and the new owner wanted his own man, so I was out by November. With hindsight, it came too early for me. I don't know how quickly Sir Jack thinks we can turn it round here. He hasn't told me we have to get up this season. I think he realises we had a mountain to climb. When Mark left we were in mid-table, so it was a difficult situation to pick up on."

Was he disappointed not to

be taken on permanently? "No, but I do think I'm under pressure. I've got so many games to get so many results, and try to earn the security of a contract. But all managers are temporary in a way."

Intriguingly, given the imminent arrival of Arsenal, George Graham is the con-

tinuing to insist the change was forced on him by injury, illness and outgoing transfers. "The squad today is arguably not as good as when Arsenal beat us 1-0 in the semi-final because we've had to let a lot of people go.

cause they've got better players. But it could be one of those days when it doesn't quite happen for them. They might come here not expecting such a hard game, knowing they've beaten us recently. Then again, they got such a shock against Preston that I think that's unlikely."

Rather than go to Deepdale, Lee watched Wolves' reserves. He then passed up the chance to see Arsenal play Liverpool in order to assess Watford ahead of last weekend's game at Molineux. Promotion, it seems, holds a higher priority than giant-killing glory. "Definitely," he says. "The Cup will come and go. The League goes on."

Wolves' prospects on both fronts have received a timely

boost with Lee's first major signing, Haavard Flo. The Norwegian striker has the aerial power to provide an ideal foil for the ground-level wiles of Robbie Keane, the Irish prodigy reputedly coveted by Arsène Wenger.

Before paying Werder Bremen £700,000 for Flo, Lee could be judged only on his organisational and tactical prowess. Perhaps now, with Sir Jack's purse strings loosened, he will feel less like a caretaker.

"I've been so focused on the team and the need to get results that it hasn't quite sunk in yet that I'm actually the manager of Wolves," he reflects.

For Arsenal's erstwhile teenage temp, Sunday should bring it home with a vengeance.

Collymore frustrated at fringe status

BY TOMMY STANIFORTH

**STAN** COLLYMORE, Aston Villa's record signing, has spelt out his disappointment at having only a "bit part" to play in manager John Gregory's current plans. The £7m signing from Liverpool is concerned that his "peripheral" role is wrecking his chances of resurrecting his England career.

Gregory said last week that Collymore was "winning me over" with his attitude and commitment despite being unable to dislodge the Dion Dublin-Julian Joachim striking partnership. But that is little consolation to Collymore, who believes he deserves a place in the starting line-up at what he feels is the peak time of his career.

Collymore enjoyed a rich vein of form in the pre-Christmas period but his sending-off against Liverpool and a subsequent injury have cost him his place in the starting line-up.

"I've scored twice in the last four games and even in the times when I've come on as a substitute I have made a difference," Collymore said. "Seven goals in nine full appearances would be enough to get into a lot of sides. I have looked at the statistics for the various partnerships and when I've played with Dion Dublin he has scored goals and, when I've played with Julian Joachim, so has he."

"It's down to the manager because he picks the team but it is very disappointing for me at the moment not to be getting into the side when I feel I'm playing well enough to warrant a place and to be influential. It's a case of having to deal with it. I've done nothing wrong and I can't see what more I am expected to do."

"The disappointing thing for me is that by being overlooked week in and week out means it is becoming more and more obvious that I am a peripheral figure - and I've never been that in my career. That is something, if the situation goes on, that I will have to look at. It is making me take a step back in the England reckoning."

Glen Hoddle was at the

Everton game on Monday but

it doesn't matter if I'm sitting on the bench."

Middlesbrough yesterday confirmed the career of their Italian striker Marco Branca is over. The former Internazionale player has made just one appearance as a substitute for the Teesside club this season after damaging a knee in April last year, and has been back in his own country battling for fitness since the summer.

Boro admitted yesterday that he will not return to Premiership football.

John Hartson has vowed to return to his aggressive old ways in a bid to recapture his best form. The £7.5m striker is hoping that his move to Wimbledon will put his career back on track after a poor first half to this season.

Hartson believes a get-tough policy is the right way for him to re-establish himself as one of the best frontmen in the Premiership.

"Now I'm at Wimbledon, I want to get back to my best, putting myself about," the 23-year-old former West Ham striker said. "I think that in the past, when I was getting booked a lot and I was flying around, that was when I was playing at my best. When I haven't been putting myself about, I haven't been at my best because I'm not the same player. Aggression is a big part of my game and I'm not going to lose that."

Wales will, after all, have the chance to play Denmark in Cardiff. The last obstacle has been removed to Wales' desire to switch the European Championship match with the Danes on 9 June from Amfield to Ninian Park.

The Danish Football Association has confirmed that it is very unlikely to raise any objections to the change. Sjørne Hansen, the Danish FA's general secretary said: "If Wales want to play the match in Wales, there's not much we can do to stop them."

The Football Association of Ireland yesterday announced plans to build a 45,000 capacity international stadium in south-west Dublin. It is estimated the stadium will cost £57,000 to build.

The stadium, which will be called The Arena, will have a removable, natural grass pitch and a retractable roof to accommodate sporting as well as cultural events, indoor and outdoor, according to the FAI.

## Compromise by Wilkinson

BY MARK BRADLEY

HOWARD WILKINSON has ruled out 28 first-choice players from his plans for the forthcoming world under-20 tournament in Nigeria to ward off expected opposition from clubs.

The Football Association's technical director held a meeting with the Premier League and the Football League last Friday before issuing a guarantee that any player involved regularly in first-team football would not be picked. So out of the list of 60 eligible players drawn up by Wilkinson, almost half will not be selected for the mid-season tournament in April.

The squad has not yet been announced but the likes of Michael Owen, Gareth Barry,

## FA Cup keeps replays

THE FOOTBALL Association

yesterday repelled the latest assault on the integrity of FA Cup when it rejected a proposal to dispense with replays.

writes Glenn Moore.

The suggestion followed last season's expansion of the Champions' League which could cause fixture congestion for clubs progressing in both competitions.

But the Challenge Cup committee decided the interests of less than a handful of teams should not be allowed to overrule those of the 550-plus who enter the 127-year-old trophy.

However, the anomaly created by this year's decision to complete the final on the day is

to be continued. The move was largely prompted by a possible fixture clash with the European Cup final even though it is a problem which could only occur if Manchester United reach the FA Cup final on May 22 and the European final on May 26.

An FA spokesman stressed that this decision was also due to the sense of antimax experienced by fans attending the final at not seeing a result. Critics argue that the retention of final replay would benefit fans since more genuine supporters are able to attend such games.

The decision to retain replays for the rest of the competition was applauded by Bryan Butler, whose Official

Illustrated History of the FA Cup was reissued yesterday in an updated edition. He said: "To have dispensed with replays would have damaged the fabric of the competition."

The majority of clubs will

also welcome the news. John Hollins, the manager of Swansea City who knocked West Ham out of this year's competition in a replay last week, said: "I think that in the past, when I was getting booked a lot and I was flying around, that was when I was playing at my best. When I haven't been putting myself about, I haven't been at my best because I'm not the same player. Aggression is a big part of my game and I'm not going to lose that."

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## Negri wastes West Ham chance Pompey stave off bankruptcy

TOMORROW



**MARCO NEGRI** may have ended his chances of joining West Ham in a move from Rangers, writes Alan Nixon. The Italian striker had a poor game against Third Division Barnet in a specially arranged private match at the club's training ground yesterday morning.

Rangers and Arsenal are also interested in him, but the Hammers are the only club to have spoken to him so far and offer lucrative terms. Redknapp has ruled out making an offer for the England midfielder Robert Lee because he refuses to pay £2m for a 32-year-old. "Don't get me wrong, I am a big fan of Robert Lee," Redknapp said. "But Newcastle want money for Robert and he is not really on at £2m."

Newcastle United are remaining tight-lipped over reports that they have made a £4m bid to bring the 24-year-old Internazionale and Nigeria

midfielder Taribo West to St James' Park. The club's chairman, Freddy Shepherd, and their chief executive, Freddie Fletcher, were out of the country yesterday as speculation mounted over a move.

Newcastle's manager, Ruud Gullit, who had eight years as a player in Italy with Inter's neighbours, Milan, and Sampdoria before moving to Chelsea, still has good contacts in the country and was on the verge of completing a £5m deal to sign West's team-mate Ibrahim Ba before a medical revealed a problem. But the Dutchman has repeatedly maintained that his dealings on the transfer market will remain secret until the deal is done.

"You always want to attract the best and the transfer market now for top clubs is a global one they are operating in," Lee said. "Clubs always want to buy the best that is available but they must work hard to make sure the young players are very much a part of their future. Overall, we certainly think the balance in the Premier League is a fairly good one."

reached late on Tuesday night. As a result, Try Build withdrew its winding-up petition against Blue Star Garages, parent company of Portsmouth Football Club, which was the guarantor for the payment. The petition had originally been for £435,000.

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He followed in his father's footsteps by playing for Sheffield Wednesday and his son is an Owls supporter, but Gary Megson is hoping the home side will be knocked out of the FA Cup at Hillsborough on Saturday. Stockport County's manager talks to Guy Hodgson



# SPORT

MURALITHARAN VICTIM OF SPIN P24 • WOLVES AT ARSENAL'S DOOR P28

## Fans win better deal on tickets

AS THE organisers of the Euro 2000 finals yesterday provided details of how they hope to avoid the kind of ticketing fiasco that marred last year's World Cup in France, their plans were given a cautious welcome by the Football Supporters' Association.

Outlining how seats will be sold for the tournament - to be co-hosted by the Netherlands and Belgium between 10 June and 2 July next year - a Euro 2000 spokesman said there will be no preferential treatment for the host countries' fans, that tickets for every game will be freely available across Europe, and that there will be no direct allocation of tickets to profiteering travel agents. "We are absolutely convinced there will be no repeat of the World Cup situation," the spokesman said.

Of the 1.3m tickets available for Euro 2000's 31 matches, 37 per cent will be sold on a Europe-wide basis from the end of March. Fans will be able to apply for up to two tickets per game via application forms which will be available from national football associations and the organisers. Applications for these 37 per cent of tickets will

### FOOTBALL

BY NICK HARRIS

be accepted for around a month and successful buyers will be given by 25 June. If there are more applicants than tickets, the seats - likely to range from around £20 for the cheapest at group games to around £90 for the best places at the final - will be allocated by drawing lots. The organisers expect demand to be high, especially among fans of the Netherlands and Belgium, the only teams whose first-round fixtures have been confirmed. As hosts they have both already qualified.

A further 32 per cent of tickets (twice the figure allocated for the World Cup) will be divided between fans of the two nations competing in each game. These will be distributed via national associations after the draw for the finals in December. Nineteen per cent of tickets will go to corporate sponsors and the hospitality market, eight per cent to the media, and the remainder to the world and European governing bodies, Fifa and Uefa.

"It's very pleasing that tick-

ets will be freely available to fans across Europe and that a third will be given to competing countries," Alison Pilling, the chair of the Football Supporters' Association, said. "But there's still this problem that every ticket going into corporate hands, which will be nearly 20 per cent, doesn't go to a genuine fan."

According to the Euro 2000 organisers, security is a major priority and every ticket will be printed with the name of the buyer to deter black market trading. The only way that third parties will officially be allowed to trade in tickets, a spokesman said, is if a national association sanctions a tour operator to market its allocation of tickets. The onus for fair allocation and affordable prices will still rest with footballing bodies, he added.

For France 98, the organising committee (CFO) reserved around 60 per cent of tickets for French citizens. Demand by English and Scottish fans outnumbered available tickets by more than 10 to one, and there were complaints that tour operators were profiteering by selling tickets costing as little as £18 as part of £600 one-day packages. When the CFO - facing accusations that its allocation procedures were illegal under European competition law - opened its infamous ticket hotline, overseas callers' chances of getting through were estimated at two million to one. Problems peaked at the tournament itself, when tens of thousands of fans found they had been victims of "phantom ticket" sellers, where no seats were forthcoming despite having been paid for in advance.

The Euro 2000 organisers' plans were drawn up specifically to avoid such problems. The CFO may yet face a multi-million pound fine for its arrangements and will meet with European Community officials in Brussels tomorrow to argue why it should not be penalised.



Tim Henman serves in his five-set struggle against Sandon Stolle in Melbourne yesterday

**Henman conjures great escape**

### TENNIS

BY DERRICK WHYTE  
in Melbourne

TIM HENMAN came close to adding to his dismal record in the Australian Open yesterday when he fell two sets to one behind against Sandon Stolle, the Australian ranked 240 in the world. In the end, the British sixth seed escaped to win 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 in just over three hours.

Last year the British No 1 lost in the first round here and he has never progressed beyond the third round. Yesterday it was not hard to see why. During the course of the Centre Court match, the world No 7 missed a succession of shots that he would normally put away with ease, two of them simply awful smashes.

"I don't know if my eyes were shut or looking elsewhere," Henman said afterwards. "That's definitely not the way to execute the overhead." But he remained positive. "It builds confidence to know you can win when at times you are not playing your best," he added. "But in future rounds I've got to try and not dig holes for myself."

Henman's service continued to be suspect and it is hard to see how he can continue to make significant progress when there is such an inconsistency in the game's most important shot. Astonishingly, against a player who does not have a particularly destructive return of serve, he lost his first three service games, though he recovered from 5-1 down to lose the first set 6-4.

Henman's volleying, too, was erratic and he admitted that he was lucky to recover in the second set, agreeing that Stolle had two bad line decisions at 5-6. Having been given that lifeline the British No 1 did his best to throw it away again, losing his own serve again at the start of the third set. Henman could not save that set, but he did save the match and Stolle said: "Tim knows he escaped."

Henman now faces a third-round match against the big-hitting Swiss Marc Rosset, the eighth-ranked world No 9 who is now down to 31st in the rankings.

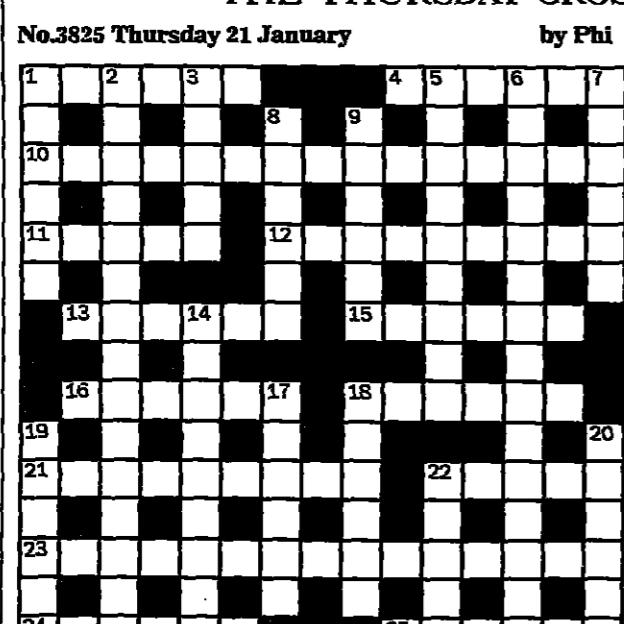
More reports, page 27  
Results, Digest, page 29

## Arsenal to extend defenders' contracts

ARSENAL'S VETERAN defenders Steve Bould, Nigel Winterburn and Lee Dixon are all expected to be offered extensions to their contracts by their manager, Arsène Wenger.

Bould's and Winterburn's contracts expire at the end of the season and both have been offered 12-month extensions. Dixon has been invited to negotiate a new contract. Wenger said yesterday: "The situation with all three players should be sorted out by the end of January, but don't be surprised if all three are at Highbury next season."

### THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**

- Clear little daughter will be rocked in this? (6)
- Mother's to request material (6)
- Being ignored, in the judgement of senior managers? (5,2,3)
- A physician goes round hospital without any formal plan (2,3)
- Perfume? You'll find a bit in the land of Chanel (9)
- Pound cattle food, getting a sticky substance (6)
- Mostly see place of debauchery as perverted (6)
- A great many dogs will have no hint of pedigree (6)

**DOWN**

- Drink is able to leave middle of kitchen in lift (6)
- Skate with no rollers? An oddity (1,4,3,2,5)
- Reasoning a mathematical quantity leads in in-
- Dramatist, British, realistic (5)
- Coastal resort seen as most vulgar; frequently (9)
- Major collection of religious texts - and one who'll misuse them? (5)
- London area getting all hot in riots? (7,4,4)
- Little chance to ditch student that's crude (6)
- Sticks around Northern French resort (6)
- Integral calculus (5)
- Begin cooking with a rye or some other vegetable (9)
- Like teetotallers, perhaps, showing a perverse attitude (7,3,5)
- Kind child longing to be picked up (6)
- The old trapped in ramshackle fine - there's a sight (6)
- Most of the conflict's tense and cross (6)
- Playwright's money's associated with spoken legend (9)
- Wino leaving horrible smell in nose? Not half (6)
- Interrupt, almost provoking objections (4,2)
- A sideswipe from good weapon (6)
- Capital way of identifying leading characters in assembly (6)
- New label showing name (5)

by Phi

Wednesday's solution

CHANCES SUNSPOT  
AKHCPETIA  
TRIGONOMETRICAL  
CCLWEVNU  
HIKER LADLEFULS  
EIBWRE  
HANDOMISREEDS  
EMPHASIALALAGHT  
SEIICSU  
COPYRIGHT LATER  
AAORWE  
PUNCTUATIONMARK  
EIOISCGRE  
REIEIRVE TUESDAY

## IOC report shows 'decades of bribery'

A CONFIDENTIAL International Olympic Committee report into the Salt Lake City Olympic scandal admits that bribery within the Olympic movement goes back decades and reveals that up to 16 IOC members could be expelled for their involvement in the affair.

The report will be delivered this weekend when the six-man IOC executive committee meets in Lausanne to decide what action to take. Informed sources indicate that it shows that Salt Lake City spent perhaps, showing a perverse attitude (7,3,5)

Kind child longing to be picked up (6)

The old trapped in ramshackle fine - there's a sight (6)

Most of the conflict's tense and cross (6)

Playwright's money's associated with spoken legend (9)

Wino leaving horrible smell in nose? Not half (6)

Interrupt, almost provoking objections (4,2)

A sideswipe from good weapon (6)

Capital way of identifying leading characters in assembly (6)

New label showing name (5)

### OLYMPIC GAMES

BY KIERAN DALEY

said. "All they did was pour drinks and dance."

In Australia, an official of Melbourne's failed 1996 Olympic bid revealed that the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra held a special concert so that the piano-playing daughter of a South Korean IOC member could show off her musical talents.

The novelist Shane Maloney said the bidding committee encouraged the orchestra to invite the girl to play with them and the concert drew a packed house.

Certainly they (the MSO) were prompted at our suggestion to invite her, Maloney said. "I think she probably tickles in the C division, rather than the A, but certainly she's a competent pianist." Despite Australia's magnanimous gesture, Atlanta's bid won the Games.

Vitaly Smirnov, the head of the Russian Olympic Committee and a former IOC vice-president, said the Salt Lake City bribery scandal is part of a plot to oust the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, according to an interview published yesterday.

"I'm absolutely sure that someone wanted to oust Samaranch, to force him to resign under the wave of criticism. And then replace him with someone else who would carry out a different policy," he said.

"Who? Many people don't like Samaranch, many people want to profit from the Olympic movement, commercialise it. Ted Turner and Rupert Murdoch have their vision of sport's future."

### MORSE

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# THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Michael Grieve

# Lifers

There are 4,000 'lifers' in Britain, more than the rest of Europe put together. Men like Alan, who broke a man's nose and found himself banged up in a prison full of 'killers'. Five years into his sentence, he's still not got over the shock...

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

**A**lan is 38 and doing life for murder. You can still hear his sense of shock at what has happened to him, five years after a court sent him down. "When I first got life off, for murder" he says, "I thought, 'God almighty, I'm going to a jail where there are killers.'" Indeed, he does not seem quite to appreciate why he is here at all. "You must understand," he confides, "there are people in here who have done a particular crime, where it wasn't a malicious thing. In my own case, I broke a man's nose and he died because he was drunk and he choked, so therefore I have a life sentence for killing the man. Fair enough, I accept that. But when people class everybody in the lifer system as the same, that's when things are not right."

He has a point. Lifers are not your average jailbirds. They vary a great deal, and are also different from the rest of the prison population. Often they are older and better educated.

And there are more and more of them. Last year the number in England and Wales exceeded 4,000 for the first time. That is more than the rest of western Europe put together, according to a new study from the Prison Reform Trust. Every year, 300 more join the ranks of these "prisoner pensioners". Meanwhile, only 80 or 90 get out. Those remaining are behind bars for longer: for almost 15 years on average compared with about 10 in the Seventies. Slowly, lifers are taking over the system.

All classes of people commit murder. That is clear from the 750 interviews with lifers, conducted for the Prison Reform Trust report. And when murderers are caught, they find themselves in a bureaucratic machine far more complicated than anything other prisoners experience. Everyone they encounter is writing a report that could influence their release date - a report the prisoner will not even see, even a chaplain who may never have spoken to the prisoner. It is a bizarre world. Inmates have little idea when they will get out. The rules determining when they may be freed are rarely explained.

As a result, prisoners must guess at a wise strategy, weighing up the risks of bad behaviour: if you are smart you don't smoke dope, but you may take a chance on heroin. That way you will probably escape detection by mandatory drug-testing.

"If you smoke cannabis," says one lifer, "it can last 30 days in the system. This stuff (heroin) only lasts two days, so they can chance it over the weekend. Even boys that never touched it before, they're on it."

Twisted logic rules. For example, an inmate who keeps his nose clean may find that he has made a mistake. He will learn to understand what other inmates call "mind games". "If you are a model prisoner," warns Alan, "you can get penalised, because they think that's not showing the real you. If you are really a model prisoner, they ask themselves, 'why are you in here for killing somebody?'"

"It is a classic catch-22 situation," says Stephen Shaw, the director of the Prison Reform Trust. "If a prisoner behaves too well, then he may be accused of not addressing his offence, if he behaves badly, he may be thought unfit for release."

Somehow, you have to stay sane. It is why, from Wormwood Scrubs, Alan tries so hard to stay in touch with the outside. He knows that he must keep up contact with that changing world beyond the prison walls.

Those relationships will be needed one day in the future, when

he is freed. They may keep him from crime, maybe even save him from suicide.

But it isn't easy. Alan relies on weekly wages, which buy just over 12 minutes' phone time. "I try phoning at least twice, three times a week," he says. "I get 37 seconds for a unit, but a guy who lives locally can get 67 seconds. For me a £2 phone card, which is dear - it's two days' wages - lasts me around five minutes. Whereas a local chap can stay on the phone for 20 minutes."



Morris Carpenter/Insight

Twelve minutes. Not long to keep up with three children and his parents in Devon. Like many lifers, Alan has seen his marriage collapse. He has not had a visit in two months because Wormwood Scrubs is too far away. The four-hour journey from Devon, for his retired parents, is arduous - his mother has bad arthritis. "She leaves on a Friday night to get here on a Saturday morning. She's got to stay overnight in a freezing cold flat for a half-hour visit. It's not on. I lost my marriage because of it, because there was no contact. I've got three children and I'm lucky to see them three times a year."

It's a familiar story in London, where the Scrubs is filled with people from parts of the country that do not have appropriate facilities for lifers, particularly at the beginning of their sentences. In some ways, however, Alan is glad to be with other lifers. There is less pressure. He had a terrible time, he says, when he was first sentenced in a local jail.

"You're trying to get your head round starting a life sentence. You want to try to cope with your own emotions and your own problems without somebody who is moaning about having three months, and he's got two weeks to do."

It can take a long time for a lifer to come to terms with what has happened. Jim is five years into his term. The loss of your first appeal is, he now realises, the moment of truth. "This is where

the burden really starts." He is also trying to manage the outside world in his head. "You're stuck here in a time zone. Really, you are thinking of when you came in, because you are not growing on the outside. So when people come in and you think something is not all right, it is often because they have grown, they're evolving. You are still slowed down, very, very slow."

Jim's comments are ironic because, despite this slowness, lifers move more quickly than folk on the outside. American research reveals that illnesses that typically afflict men in their fifties, such as heart disease, often debilitate prisoners in their forties.

However, Jim's sense of life speeding by reflects a general craving among lifers for fresh knowledge of the world outside.

"It would be nice if you had someone you could get information from," says Mike. "It's like, you go and buy CDs, but you're buying them blind. You're spending £10 or £15 on a CD and it's not really what you wanted, because for 13 years you've had no one there giving you information."

Without such help you can quickly be in trouble. "Some guys have no family and, two years into their bird, they're struggling because they have no contact," says Jim. "I think it has a lot to do with feeling wanted. If you knew people before, then when you come here and they don't want to see you, you feel that you're not wanted, because nobody in here is going to want you."

"Some people come in here and they have nobody. They go outside and they have nobody again. They reoffend and the courts vilify them: 'Why are you reoffending, ra ra ra?' They don't understand why. You put me in a dodgy little, dingy little bedsit, you give me some idiot amount of money and expect me to get on with life. I mean, there's only a few people that grit their teeth and say, 'I'm digging my feet in and I'm not going back to jail.' Not everyone's got that character. Some suicide. Some turn back to crime. It's rotten because it all stems from how you are in here."

Yet even when your family does visit, it is hard to communicate with them in such a false situation as a prison visit. That bothers Jim. "You know yourself, when you're around your family at home you don't feel you need to speak. You just chill, watch TV or whatever. But when you're up for a visit, you feel you have to talk because they've come to see you. But I just want to see them, not talk to them the whole time."

"Sometimes my brothers come and they just relax and get a conversation going on between them. It's like I'm on the outside looking in, because I've lost a lot of time with them. Therefore I haven't got a clue about half the things they talk about. But I can sit there and see it. Sometimes I'll just be smiling because I don't feel put on the spot, and they're relaxing and just being normal. So I can have a part in that normality."

It is a normality that can easily be shattered, says Paul, who is serving a life sentence for killing a man in a brawl. He recalls a visit from his wife. "I was on a visit," he recalls, "when one of the screws decided to say to her: 'What the fucking hell are you doing here visiting murderers?' She'd been here every week and that's the first time anybody had said anything like that to her... there was nearly a fight between me and the screws."

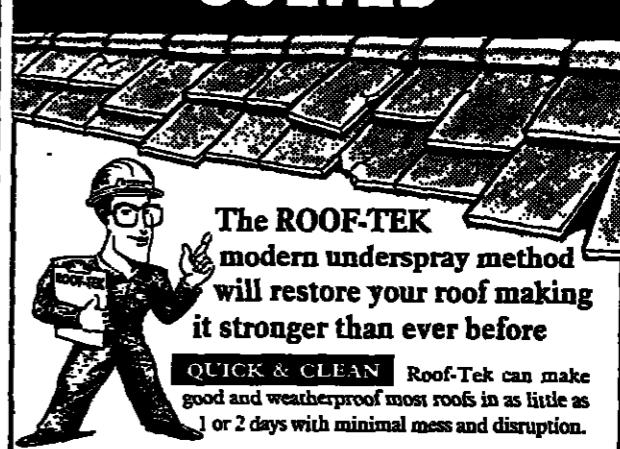
Paul knows how dangerous it is if his family becomes alienated by the treatment they receive. "They should lay off the families, when they come in to visit you," he says, "because they know that for a lot of people that's their only source of support at all. If that goes, then you can guarantee when a prisoner comes back into his cell he'll go mad - not probably swinging from the end of a landing-rope, but he'll kick off. He'll say, 'What's the point

of me doing anything else? It's all up the tubes; let's go for it!'"

Alan seeks some understanding: "All I am asking is to treat me like a human being. I've got family, I've got children. I was a businessman on the outside. I'm not an animal - please don't treat me like one. That's all I ask, and I'll cope with my sentence. And I will cope with it better if you ease the pressure."

The prisoners' identities have been disguised

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## Mr Ashdown's fight for reform ends in ultimate failure

THE UNEXPECTED exit of Paddy Ashdown is a classic illustration of Enoch Powell's dictum that all political careers end in failure. That may be an unfair assessment of his full contribution over the past 10 years, which started with his rescue of the fractured alliance between the Liberals and the SDP in 1988. He built the merged party into a surprisingly coherent, strong and electorally secure third force. We salute his great achievement in rebuilding that party, enabling it to provide much-needed opposition in many of the one-party states of local government, and in helping to break down many of the tribal assumptions of British politics.

But yesterday's announcement is ultimately an admission that his strategy for going beyond that is not working. He wanted a realignment of British politics - but it was a realignment that seemed superfluous to an electorate already realigned behind Tony Blair and which seemed undesirable to his party.

He tried to change his party, but in the end it proved too resistant to change. In the past few weeks, there have been signs that he had given up trying, as the depth of hostility among Liberal Democrats to working with the Labour Government has been increasingly evident. He was forced, for example, to vote against last November's Queen's Speech, which contained virtually nothing with which the Lib Dems disagreed. Mr Ashdown's decision to go is a public declaration of his loss of faith in his own party.

But in the end his failure was to change the Labour Party, which has made its hostility to working with him equally evident. For all his success in establishing his party as the second party of local government, and in sending more MPs to Westminster than at any time since the Liberals were overtaken by the Labour Party earlier this century, he could go no further without achieving a breakthrough in changing the electoral system.

After the Labour landslide removed his bargaining power, his strategy for obtaining proportional representation was fatally flawed. He never really decided whether he wanted to be part of a broad, progressive liberal coalition - in which case electoral systems are only a means to an end, and changing them was rendered pointless by Mr Blair's redrawing of the contours of the political landscape - or whether PR was desirable as an end in itself. Could he have played it differently after Mr Blair's unexpectedly decisive victory? Yes. He could have stuck to an independent path, defending liberal principles against the incipient authoritarianism of New Labour; and arguing for a plural political system for its own sake. Whether that would have been any more successful must be doubtful. The failure of Roy Jenkins's compromise PR system to



## This historic challenge must not be fudged

THE PUBLICATION of the Government's White Paper on reform of the House of Lords is as welcome as it is overdue. Thankfully the time when our laws could be made or altered on the basis of an accident of birth will soon come to an end, with the Government appointing a Royal Commission to suggest precisely who should be legislating on our behalf. This Royal Commission will produce its report by the end of the year - an impressive turn of speed for a vehicle which, Harold Wilson once joked, would take minutes and waste years.

However, it is unlikely that the subsequent stages, namely consideration of the proposals by the Government, and a joint committee of the Lords and Commons on implementation, will be undertaken quite so speedily, and there

remains genuine doubt as to whether reform will be anywhere near complete by the time of the next election. Indeed, there is a creeping suspicion that the Government might not wish to see such a distracting issue take centre stage at that time and that it is, in any case, shying from any of the real choices before it.

The judicial role of the Law Lords, the question of disestablishing the Church of England along with the bishops, the place of the new chamber in the broader devolution of the union - all these are missing from the commission's remit.

There is one word above all that cannot be forgotten when it comes to the new upper chamber: democracy. Politicians of all parties may place discreet pressure on the Royal Commission to produce a fudge - a fudge that reduces the power of the new House. The temptation to trim must be resisted by the commission. The new upper house should last for as long as the last one did. To do that it needs democratic legitimacy. It is a historic challenge.

## Some thoughts, your Lordship, on the reform of your House

Dear Lord Wakeham,

Congratulations on your appointment to yet another senior position in public service. First the Press Complaints Commission, and then this new Royal Commission on the reformed second chamber. Wow! It's only a shame that we haven't got any large colonies left, so that you can round your career off properly with a nice feathered hat and a medal.

To be honest, Your Lordship, my first thought was that appointing someone with your record to oversee radical reform was like putting a pacifist in charge of the Nato intervention force in Kosovo. You've been pretty conservative in the PCC job, haven't you?

But I ought to keep an open mind, at least because I want to serve on the Royal Commission too. No, really. I do. This may seem a bizarre way of bringing my desire to serve my changing country to the PM's attention, but I really cannot see myself going through the endless rounds of networking, lunching, cold-calling and flattery that usually accompany any attempt to break through into the super-quango stratosphere. Some are good at it, some aren't.

There are those who regret the passing of the hereditary peers, just as there is still a League of Empire Loyalists and, I dare say, a shadowy group dedicated to the restoration of the Stuart monarchy (whose scion is probably a Winnipeg acupuncturist). Personally I would be quite prepared to swap all those earls, dukes and whatnots for a convocation of hamsters and hedgehogs, if that were the only choice. It seems very sensible and



DAVID AARONOVITCH  
*Whatever the obsession with who, m'lud, the big question is what. What is a second chamber for?*

to endow another chamber with substantial rights of veto or delay.

Tony, of course, has his own agenda, Your Excellency. The remit of the Appointments Commission is to consider lay, non-party nominations to the second chamber on the basis of "the special qualities they could bring to the law-making process". And, perhaps, to government. He would like, I suspect, to widen the gene pool from which he and his successors can draw their ministers. Already the whispers are that Lords Falconer and Macdonald (the latter having been ennobled and given ministerial rank on the same day) are among the most effective of New Labour's administrators. Tony may well want to be able, in future, to draw yet more heavily on those who are not career politi-

cians. Given that we do not operate a system of presidential appointments, the PM needs the fig-leaf of a second chamber to achieve this. And he cannot rely on his own party to provide them.

The real problem with the way we are governed lies in the Commons itself, and its relationship to the political parties. The present tribal selection of candidates, under the first-past-the-post system, tends to reward the obsessive and the devious, at the expense of the intelligent and the dynamic. To get elected you must belong to one of the big parties. For them to select you, you must conform to the local orthodoxy of what a good candidate should be like. Although more talented ones slipped under the wire in 1997, it is still the case that only about a tenth of MPs are either bright or curious enough to be decent commissioners at a Notting Hill dinner party.

When elected, the prime responsibility of those in the majority party is to support their government (of which they all hope to be members), and that of the minority party is to oppose it. It is little wonder that scrutiny (as in the select committee system) invariably stops short of serious embarrassment, or that three-line whips are rarely broken. As a result the Prime Minister, at the head of his whipped majority, exercises almost total, unchallenged powers over appointment, legislation and oversight. Whether or not a PM is a "control freak" is utterly irrelevant. He or she is more completely in control than any American president could ever dream of being.

You witnessed all this, Your Highness, when you served under Mrs Thatcher. Were you not around for the poll tax? And you must know that one voice in this debate is in danger of going unheard. It is the voice that argues for a substantial second chamber, composed of people who do have the power substantially to delay, alter or block government legislation and appointments. I should like to see a senate whose committees are feared and respected by citizens and public servants in a way that, currently, Commons Select Committees are not. (I exempt those chaired by Gerald Kaufman, who I gather is to help you out. That'll be fun.) And if the second chamber is not to have such powers, then I am reluctant to spend taxpayers' money on it all.

I am not against ideas to link the senate to the devolved bodies in Wales and Scotland (though I suspect that MSPs and MWA will have better things to do with their time). And I am very much in favour of a number of non-party nominees who have not had to go through the party selection grinder. The Independent Appointments Commission is welcome, though I shall be interested to see who is appointed to make the appointments. But what a modern Britain needs is a mostly elected, legitimate and powerful second chamber which can assist good government and protect citizens' rights through the exercise of real, not chimerical, power.

That's it. I look forward to hearing from you. By the way, Mondays and Wednesdays are difficult for me. With best wishes, David

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Though I love being an MP, I don't want still to be one at 65."  
Paddy Ashdown,  
leader of the Liberal Democrats

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"I may disagree with what you have to say, but I shall defend, to the death, your right to say it."  
Voltaire,  
French writer and philosopher

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## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
*American verdicts on President Clinton's State of the Union speech*

in Congress. We hope he also makes a push for campaign finance reform. If he can emerge from the impeachment debate and lead an effort that borrows ideas from the opposition, he

could put a productive stamp on his final two years in office.  
*New York Times*

HELPING CLINTON last night was also the fact that he is

presiding over what may be the most prosperous period in US history. Republicans might as well accept this reality. America won't tolerate his removal. He walked into the House not unlike Daniel entering the lion's den. And like Daniel, he walked out again. The lions were cheering.  
*Miami Herald*

IT MUST be remembered that on the occasion of one of Clinton's previous State of the Houston Chronicle

THE PRESIDENT may promise all he wants in new programs but the budget calculations don't add up, and the smart Acolitus is that future retirees will pay the price.  
*USA Today*

CLINTON WAS able to propose slathering gobs of money on virtually every interest group in sight. For the most part, those recommendations will grate on his principal allies in Congress - the liberals. But the

liberals are in his pocket. Now he needs to solidify support in the center: what better way to do that than with a cash bath? This amounts to jury tampering in the court of public opinion, of course. But this is what Clinton has excelled at for years. Cynicism pays.  
*New York Post*

MANY OF the proposals for education, the environment, crime and military readiness will probably find broad support



# A battle too far for Paddy

PADDY ASHDOWN has been a very impatient man. Not for nothing was one of his more enduring nicknames "Tigger". And typically Paddy is as fond of his jogging as most politicians are of life's softer pleasures. As a result, those of us who worked for him found him extremely difficult to keep up with, physically and intellectually. Indeed, his liking for the Somerset countryside, and a brisk walk as we discussed the challenges facing the party, ruined at least one pair of perfectly good shoes of mine. But as he looks forward to an easier pace of life, we can reflect that he lived up to almost all of the political challenges placed in his path, and brought himself and his party closer to power than any previous leader since Lloyd George, is more than sufficient to secure his place in history. The achievement of influence through the joint Cabinet committee with the Government on first constitutional, and later foreign affairs, was something that his immediate predecessors could only dream about.

That Paddy is retiring because he feels he has achieved all he can for his party is sad, but to me, not so startling. Ten years is probably enough, as David Steel suggested in an article for this paper to mark Paddy's decade as leader. Although I only worked with him for a very short time, I quickly found that Paddy Ashdown was a man who would always have to have something to run for. I think that he has run out of things to run for, despite his recent close personal relationship with Tony Blair. Having a project to run at was what made him tick politically.

When he was a soldier he had battles to fight and wars to win. He tells a good tale about some of these. He wandered into politics – convinced, he always said, by an odd little Liberal man in an anorak who turned up on his doorstep in 1971 and who wanted to talk to him about "community politics". Not his type, you would think, but he soon got used to the men in sandals, and his earlier flirtation with the Labour Party was finally extinguished. His next aim was to secure a seat and win it. He turned up in Yeovil, partly through family connections of his wife Jane's, and after a pot at it in 1979, went on to win in 1983, securing the largest swing against the Conservative Party in the country. The seat was in the West Country, with some Liberal tradition. But the scale of the turnaround that Paddy achieved was down to a certain force of personality. After he became leader he inherited a party that couldn't even decide on its own name ("Democrats" was his own preference, one of the few mistakes, he joked, that he was ashamed to own up to).

Politically his first task – another thing to run for – was to finish off the other two political minnows he found himself in competition with.

Despite the occasional overture, Dr David Owen's "continuing SDP", reflected on what the next few



SEAN O'GRADY  
Those of us working for him found him difficult to keep up with, physically and intellectually

little more than a fan club for the Doc, proved for a short while an effective and irritating distraction. Trickier to deal with were the Greens, who were in fact grabbing part of the old Liberal appeal to environmentalism. They too were seen off. The 1992 election was a staging post, a chance to prove that the party could, more or less, hold its own, which it did. Another project completed.

But the political challenge which most tested Ashdown, and which he tried turning to his advantage, was in the shape of that new kid on the block Tony Blair, who became Labour leader in 1994.

Blair challenged Paddy's monopoly for freshness and energy when he became Labour leader in 1994. Coming to terms with a "younger man" was not going to be easy. More significant though, was the political sublimation of Blair. Rightly or wrongly, Paddy came to the view that Blair was, in fact, "one of us". That is that Blair, in his unideological, pragmatic, progressive, modernising way was in fact a Liberal, albeit in the loosest sense of the word. Or at least that he had the potential so to become. It was a judgement that many in his own party would find difficult to accept.

The thing that Paddy Ashdown began to run for now was power. Having weaned his party of "equidistance" between Labour and the Tories, he began running for office. The convergence between the two parties, halting and untidy, might accommodate that ambition. It might have been possible, say in a hung parliament or some other politically surprising situation, to have hoped realistically for a place in government. This would be on principle, as he always said to do something rather than be something. For whatever reason, such a moment has now probably passed (although constitutionalists will point out that you can be a minister and not leader of the Lib Dems).

True, the Cabinet Committee offered much opportunity for influence. But the essential task – of setting it up and making it work – is done. My guess is that as he yomped with his beloved pet mongrel, Luke, around the hills near his home he will be an exciting tale.

The author was head of Paddy Ashdown's office, 1997-1998

years offered him, and found less than usual to run for. Paddy sometimes confided that he found too much of his time occupied by fairly pointless ritual, a piece of constitutional wallpaper, turning up to things for reasons of protocol. If he had ever made it to the Foreign Office, he would have found such duties irksome. Another four or five years as leader of the Lib Dems, struggling for attention, often ignored, and without the prospect of power, it all rather paled.

In many ways Paddy Ashdown will play Neil Kinnock to his successor's Tony Blair. In other words he will have done much, even most, of the hard work on changing his party, but will be unable to reap the final reward. Most significant, he will not be around to see the dream realised. When it does come, we will witness what Paddy always sloganised as "the new politics". He will bequeath to his successor an impressive legacy (although not one without its debts and problems). He has done an enormous amount to achieve the big thing he was running for – the historic reconciliation between the progressive parties of the "centre-left". But he read too much, perhaps, into Tony Blair's Liberalism, which is not as thorough-going or unequivocal as he thought. It is a little wishful, or possibly ironic, to place Blair in a line with Gladstone, Lloyd George or Keynes. He also, if this does not sound too bizarre, placed a little too much faith in the intentions of one man, even if he is the Prime Minister. It was apparent to me that not everyone in Government was as enthusiastic about our habit of working together as their leader was. Many had rather tribal instincts.

Paddy will miss the Party. He genuinely (and in stark contrast to Lord Steel) retained a sympathy with the party's grass roots that few other political leaders could boast after 10 years at the top. His party was sometimes suspicious of him but always had that nagging doubt that Paddy had been right before. He did have strategic sense. He loved policy.

Paddy will not, however, miss the House of Commons. He did not choose parliamentarians, on the whole, for his friends and was not the "clubbable" type. He had little time for the traditions and flummery that seem to enchant so many others. I suspect he also felt bad about the deliberate disrespect MPs showed at Prime Minister's Questions, but he certainly did not show it.

Paddy would have made an ideal Foreign or Defence minister. His background and knowledge perfectly suited to the task. Whether Paddy and Jane would relish taking up the life abroad again is a more moot point. At all events, he will spend more time with his family, and may even write his memoirs. They will be an exciting tale.

Paddy Ashdown relaxes in the Leader's office after another strategy session

## RIGHT OF REPLY

MARK BYFORD



The chief executive of the BBC World Service responds to claims that the service is being damaged by cuts

RECENT PRESS reports about cuts in BBC World Service funding have been misleading and misinformed.

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Discussions about our three-year plan are still continuing with the Foreign Office, but I hope to announce full and accurate details soon.

The BBC is totally committed to the World Service and its global mission.

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Glyn Griffiths

## Can you imagine yourself rich?

### THURSDAY BOOK

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BY DAVID BOYLE. HARPERCOLLINS. £14.99

schemes (lets) and in the US as "time dollars" schemes.

The latter are alternative, notional currencies issued in return for the time or effort of scheme members. There are several variants, but basically the scheme registers work done for other members in the form of credits, and members can draw on their saved credits to buy services in return. Most systems are run by an organiser with a personal computer.

Edgar Cahn, the American father of the hundreds of lets

schemes now in operation in the UK, noted that everybody is equal in their inheritance of time. Fancy lawyers can command a high dollar price for their time. Unemployed single mothers cannot, but through a time dollars scheme can draw value from their time and effort.

We all do this informally when we take part in babysitting circles or do favours for neighbours and family in the unspoken give-and-take of social life. The schemes backed by David Boyle and campaigners such as the New Economics Foundation do it more formally, as a means of enriching some of the poorest and most excluded members of society.

Conventional economists tend to be a bit sniffy about alternative-money schemes. Parts of this book will confirm the hard-headed sceptic in his view that the idea is a bit flaky. For example, in a concluding list of advice, Mr Boyle urges us to "create wealth... by imagining it, visualising it – or just by being more generous with it. Though to do so you have to let go of the deadwood emotions of the past and embrace the future with some enthusiasm, which is sometimes difficult when you are grindingly poor".

Certainly, nobody who is conventionally wealthy got that way by such a New Age approach. Self-made man is, on the contrary, typically a rather stingy and obsessive beast, a workaholic and the last person to buy a round down the pub. However, for the merely comfortable, there is a lot of good sense in advice that can be boiled down to keeping a sense of perspective

about money. It is the same in the end as the basic precept that money and value can differ. Different values can have their own currency.

The catch is that we all need a certain amount of conventional money to buy conventional goodies. We all need some global electronic money to be part of the world economy, as well as some homespun value to be rooted in our local economy. Mr Boyle's last piece of advice – "don't shop" – is, at least for flighty people such as me, a serious turn-off. It's a bit of the joyless puritanism about consumerism to which so many alternative and green thinkers are prone.

This is why "downshifting" is so deeply unappealing and depressing an alternative. Its guru, Amy Dacyczyn, has a three-year system of rotation to make her cheap sneakers last. This is a lot weirdier than visualising money.

It is the counsel of defeat, whereas creating a new currency is a counter-attack. There are signs that the money

establishment is taking alternative electronic currencies a bit more seriously. Bernard Liettaer, who once worked in Belgium's central bank, is one convert trying to persuade bankers and politicians that, if they don't watch out, a whole new parallel economy will have emerged.

And, after all, money is power. As Mr Boyle reminds us, Virginia and Maryland started minting their own currencies just ahead of the American Revolution. Alternative currencies are a potent means for the poor and comfortably-off alike to use free markets and new technology – so often seen as the weapons of the haves against the have-nots – in order to break the monopoly of conventional money. The world in which the dollar and euro are slugging it out for global dominance – in cyberspace, through the computers of the big investment banks – is ripe for an outbreak of monetary democracy.

DIANE COYLE

The author is a research fellow at the Institute of Economic Affairs

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# Aldo van Eyck

FROM THE early Sixties, when design was increasingly being reduced to a problem-solving discipline, the Dutch architect Aldo van Eyck defended the idea that architecture, beyond being merely functional, should be a bearer of meaning.

He gave new momentum to the notion of architecture as a language with an emotional impact and a social-cultural scope, as the primary visual medium with which human society expresses and reveals itself. He acted as the conscience of architecture and defended his humanist views with unremitting energy, often going against both the routines of established Modernism and the deviations of Post-Modernism.

Van Eyck from the outset occupied a distinct place in post-war architecture. From 1947, when he joined CIAM, the International Association of Modern Architecture, he took a critical attitude towards the prevailing functionalism. At a time when the building industry was abundantly endowed with commissions and plunged rather thoughtlessly into a euphoric flush of production, van Eyck was almost the only architect at the core of the modern movement to formulate a critique of modern architecture. He strongly opposed its reductive rationalism, its obsession with industrial production and its alienating abstractions.

Van Eyck held the conviction that 20th-century avant-garde art and science had revealed a new world view, inaugurating a "new reality" which he considered to be the most legitimate base for the development of contemporary culture. He set himself the life-task of actualising it in the field of architecture. That is why in the early Eighties he reacted so strongly against Post-Modernism, which he saw as an aberration, a betrayal of the original Modernist ideals.

His identification with the 20th-century avant-garde did however not mean that he shut himself off from the past. He also developed an original outlook on tradition: he nurtured a long-lasting interest in the heritage of classical Western culture and the archaic constants of a wide variety of non-Western cultures. From this rich intellectual substrata, he evolved an architectural language of unusual eloquence.

Van Eyck was born in Holland in

1918, but grew up in England. He received a classical but unconventional education at King Alfred School, Hampstead (1924-32), and Sidcot School, Somerset (1932-35), where he concentrated on classic English literature, and nourished a passionate interest in Symbolist poetry from Blake to Yeats.

He studied architecture in the Hague (1935-38), and at the Zürich Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH, 1938-42), where architectural design was largely dominated by the solid functionalism of Rudolph Salvisberg; he was taught among others by the Baroque art historian Linus Birchler and attended the classical design course of the Beaux-Arts veteran A. Laverrière.

At the end of his Zürich studies van Eyck got involved in the Giedion circle, and became close friends with Carola Giedion-Welcker, who was one of the first classically schooled art historians engaged in an in-depth study of modern art. She introduced the young van Eyck into the world of the 20th-century avant-garde and brought him in touch with such artists as Arp, Lohse, Van Tongerloo, Giacometti, Ernst and Brancusi, and the Dadaist Tristan Tsara. This proved to be of fundamental importance for the constitution of van Eyck's world view and cultural ideology.

In 1943 he married Hannie van Roonen, a Dutch fellow student whom he met in Zürich. After the war, he returned to Holland and settled in Amsterdam where Cor van Eesteren engaged him in the Municipal Office of Public Works (1946-51). There he designed a large series of public playgrounds, enabling him to start the experimental development of his formal language.

At the same time he became involved in the Cobra Movement (1948-51). He took on the defence of its fiery artists and designed the layouts of their major exhibitions. In 1947 he became a member of the Dutch CIAM group "de 8 on Opbouw", which appointed him as a delegate to international CIAM. Both in national and international meetings, he took a critical stand from the start. In 1954 he founded, with Jaap Bakema (Holland), Georges Candilis (France), Alain and Peter Smithson and John Voelcker (England), Team 10, the group of angry young architects who rejected the established analytical method of CIAM, and generated a new design approach

based on "patterns of human association". Van Eyck proved to be one of the most inspired members of this group. He developed a personal version of the Team 10 ideology, a view he expounded in the Dutch architectural journal *Forum*, of which he was an editor from 1959 till 1963.

After some minor projects (houses, schools, exhibitions), he gave his ideas a fully elaborated form in the Amsterdam Orphanage (1955-60), "a house like a tiny city". This building earned world-wide admiration and was paradigmatic for a new design approach, the so-called "configurative" or "structuralist" approach which mainly developed in Holland. Meanwhile van Eyck made his ideas concrete: in the competition project for a Protestant church at Driebergen (1963, a prize-winning but unexecuted design), a Catholic church at the Hague (1964-69) and the Sculpture Pavilion for Sonsbeek (1965).

Afterwards he applied his approach in the context of historical towns, first in his competition design for the Deventer town hall (1966, another prize-winning but unexecuted project), and then in the urban renewal projects for the Amsterdam Nieuwmarkt and Jordaan quarters (1970), and for the inner cities of Zwolle (1971-75) and Dordrecht (1975-81). His most striking contextual building is the Hubertus House in Amsterdam, a home for single parents and their children (1978-81), which integrates a functionalist language within an eclectic context.

From 1983 Van Eyck worked in association with his wife Hannie. Their institutional projects such as a church for the Moluccan community of Deventer (1983-82), the ESTEC complex in Noordwijk (1994-99) and the Auditor's Office in the Hague (1992-97), were characterised by biomorphic forms and flowing space.

Unlike many modern architects, van Eyck did not limit his love of modern art to constructivist currents. He wished to embrace all avant-garde currents, from Cubism to Dadaism, from De Stijl to Surrealism. In spite of their mutual oppositions, he conceived them as the diverse aspects of the same rich new reality, which he moreover considered to be grounded on one fundamental idea: the idea of relativity.

Van Eyck used to summarise this view with a pithy statement of Piet Mondrian: "the culture of particular form is approaching its end. The culture of determined relations has begun". In this new culture, every frame of reference is equally legitimate, all standpoints are relative, every standpoint can be regarded as central. But relativity by no means stands for relativism. Relativity implies that things, in spite of their relative autonomy, are strongly related and that these relations are indeed as important as the things themselves.

To realise this paradoxical yet cheery idea in architecture, van Eyck appealed to the proper spatial means of architecture. From his first designs, the Amsterdam playgrounds, he set up mutually shifting frames of reference, marked equivalent standpoints, and relativised the conventional spatial hierarchies by the establishment of eccentric centres and symmetries.

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## The Right Rev Frank West

IS 20TH CENTURY began to draw to a close, Frank West had already been a priest for 40 years. He was a specialist in ecclesiastical law, and his reputation as a leading authority in that field was well known. But his main preoccupation was with Albert and Pauline, the two sons he had brought up in his care. He had a deep love for them, and they were his constant source of joy and comfort. He was a man of great faith, and his love for God was evident in everything he did. He was a true Christian, and his life was a witness to the truth of the gospel.

West was well equipped to write the book because he was a parish priest at heart. For the first eight years of his time as an archdeacon he was also the incumbent of a country parish in Nottinghamshire (Upton) followed by East Retford until it was considered that the work of an archdeacon was too demanding to allow the double task; but he gave up his parish with real regret.

During this period, he found time to write three more books: *True Forefathers, the story of an English Village, 1600-1666* (1949); *The Great North Road in Nottinghamshire* (1956); and *Sparrows of the Spirit* (1957), which gave fascinating glimpses into the life and work of country parish priests in Nottinghamshire from 1583 to 1911. This last book full of lively touches, was the result of considerable research.

The success of these writings can be traced back to West's time at Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he read History and Theology. He enjoyed historical research, but that quest was opened by a solid grounding in theology, which provided the Christian element and was linked to his intensely pastoral outlook. An example of his pastoral insight can be found in his book on the country parish: "Visiting is not out of date. Behind the practice there lies a solid theological principle - nothing less than the Incarnation itself."

"THE COUNTRY parson must be a student of human nature, well aware of all its complexities. He must be gifted with humour, understanding, and patience."

So wrote Frank West in 1960, when he was Archdeacon of Newark, in his book *The Country Parish Today and Tomorrow*. Now, almost 40 years later, the wisdom which he packed into that influential book is as relevant as ever.

He quoted Bishop Ken in support of the strict discipline of reciting the daily office in the church. He asserted that the primary duty of a parish priest is to be the intercessor on behalf of the people". All his wisdom, and much more, made the book a classic.

There was soon a demand for a second edition, which appeared four years later. This attempted to look further into the future and to predict likely patterns of the church's ministry. To some extent, events may have overtaken his predictions; but on the whole they have been justified. He welcomed A.C. Smith's *The South Ormsby Experiment* in a review, calling it "the most significant essay in pastoral reorganisation since the war".

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Visiting is not out of date. Behind the practice lies a solid theological principle - nothing less than the Incarnation itself."

about human nature and about ministering to the spiritual needs of all types of people. The experience affected his subsequent ministry in civilian life.

After the war he was appointed Director of Service Ordination Candidates. The work involved interviewing countless men who offered themselves for ordination on being demobilised.

After 15 years as Archdeacon of Newark (1947-62), West was consecrated Bishop of Taunton. As suffragan to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, he found himself in the varied countryside of Somerset. It was the perfect setting for his rural interests, especially as he was able to combine the work with being a parish priest again. He and his family lived in the Old Rectory at Dinder, near Wells; and at the cathedral he enjoyed being a member of the Chapter as Prebendar of Dinder. After nine years, he again gave up his parish owing to an in-



West in 1962, the year he was consecrated Bishop of Taunton UPP

creasing workload; but he did so with extreme reluctance. In the village he was greatly popular. He visited regularly, established a notable Parish Communion service on Sundays, and re-ordered the furnishings of the medieval church in a simple and dignified way.

As suffragan bishop, many responsibilities came his way. One which he took very seriously was the direction of post-ordination training in the diocese. He held frequent meetings and discussions in his home.

West retired in 1977 to live in Aldbourne, near Marlborough. He developed a special ministry to schools, where his understanding of young people was greatly valued. He remained young in heart, and his warmth and humanity made him many friends. In 1980 he published a biography of F.R. Barry, Bishop of Southwell, under whom he had served as archdeacon. He produced his

sixth and final book in 1987, *The Story of a Wiltshire Country Church*.

As he faced increasing infirmity, his wife Beryl remained faithfully at his side, as she had done throughout their happy marriage of more than 50 years.

PATRICK MITCHELL

**Francis Horner West, priest; born St Albans, Hertfordshire 9 January 1908; ordained deacon 1933; priest 1934; Curate, St Agnes, Leeds 1933-36; Chaplain, Ridley Hall, Cambridge 1936-38; Vicar of Starbeck 1938-42; Director of Service Ordination Candidates 1946-47; Vicar of Upton 1947-51; Archdeacon of Newark 1947-62; Vicar of East Retford 1951-55; Bishop Suffragan of Taunton 1962-77; Prebendary of Wells 1962-77; Rector of Dinder, Somerset 1962-71; married 1947 Beryl Renwick (one son, one daughter); died Marlborough, Wiltshire 2 January 1999.**

## Josefina Piá

PARAGUAY COULD have done with more women like Josefina Piá, the Spanish-born writer and artist who lived most of this century at her humble suburban home in Asunción. Not that Paraguay is short of courageous women in its recent history. It was women who held the country together when the male population was reduced to one tenth in the Triple Alliance war (1865-70), and then severely cut down again in the Chaco War in 1935.

But Josefina Piá was special. She kept an open house for all visitors who wanted to discuss history, literature and art, and equally for those who came to threaten her for her persistent opposition to the dictator Alfredo Stroessner, who ruled from 1954 to 1989.

Born in the Canary Islands in 1909, she went to Asunción in 1926 as the

teenage bride, aged 15, of a Paraguayan potter and ceramics artist, Andrés Campos Cervera. From him she learned to paint and make pottery.

She began to piece together the shattered history of Paraguay in the 1930s, when nobody seemed interested in anything but surviving hunger. By the time she died she had published over 150 books of history, essays on links between Spanish and Paraguay's native Guarani, studies of native and colonial art, and volumes of poetry and short story.

She lived near poverty most of her life, but she described herself as immensely wealthy in the knowledge of two languages and two cultures, and amused by the product of miscegenation encouraged by personal example by the first Spanish governor of Asunción, Domingo Martínez de Yrala.

In the Spanish-speaking world, her writing put her on a par with the Uruguayan Juana de Ibarbouru, and Chile's Gabriela Mistral. But in surviving them and in virtually rebuilding the history of a country's art and culture, she stood alone.

The academic world and Latin Americans will remember her for her main works of poetry, some of her theatre, and for her essay on what she called "Hispanic-Guarani baroque". But a wider potential audience should also note her remarkable exploration of the history of British residents in Paraguay, who were largely responsible for building the basic grid of Asunción. The British in Paraguay, 1850-1870 was published in London in 1976, largely thanks to the effort and translation of the former British ambassador in As-

cunción, B.C. MacDermot, and the support of St Antony's College, Oxford. Drawing on archives that survived the wars, Piá traced the lives and work of the engineers and skilled craftsmen who built the railways, shipyard and government house for Paraguay.

I first met Josefina Piá in the late 1970s, when Stroessner was still strong in power and she in her language about him. Our subject was always the British in Paraguay. But she too faded, feeling herself on the sidelines of a treacherous Latin America beyond the life of Asunción.

ANDREW GRAHAM-YOULL

**Josefina Piá, poet, historian and artist; born Las Palmas, Canary Islands 9 November 1909; married 1926 Andrés Campos Cervera; died Asunción 11 January 1999.**

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### BIRTHS

**SHAPERO:** On 18 January, in Stockholm to Anna and Tony, a daughter, Maya.

#### DEATHS

**KARLIN:** On 13 January 1999, suddenly, Marc, aged 51. Most beloved husband of Hermine and adored father of Alexis and Anna. Family funeral. A celebration in his memory will be held later.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Carol Piazzolla, "Portraits (iii): 'Stubbs, Whistler'"; 1pm. Tate Gallery: Justine Hopkins, "Sex, Creativity and Reputation"; Rodin and Gwen John". 1pm.

#### BIRTHDAYS

**Mr Adrian Beamish**, former ambassador to Mexico, 59; **Dr Alan Borg**, Director, Victoria and Albert Museum, 57; **Dr John Burnett**, former Principal, Edinburgh University, 77; **Dr David Carey**, Joint Registrar, Faculty Office, Archbishop of Canterbury, 82; **Lord Cayzer**, company chairman, 88; **Mr John Denison**, former general manager, Royal Festival Hall, 88; **Mr Plácido Domingo**, operatic tenor, 58; **Mr George Foullkes MP**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for International Development, 57; **Dr John Hayes**, former Director, National Portrait Gallery, 70; **Mr Kenneth Maginnis MP**, 61; **Sir George Humphrey Middleton**, former diplomat, 89; **Mr Jack Nicklaus**, golfer, 59; **Sir Nicholas Phillips**, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 61; **Mr Paul Potts**, Editor-in-Chief, The Press Association, 49; **Miss Seona Reid**, director, Scottish Arts Council, 49; **Mr Paul Scofield**, actor, 77; **Mr Martin Shaw**, actor, 54; **Mr**

#### ANNIVERSARIES

**Deaths:** Pope Pius XII, 111; Henry Hallam, historian, 1850; Elisha Gray, inventor, 1901; Lenin (Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov), Russian leader, 1924; Lytton John.

#### TOM JOHNSON- GILBERT

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Tom Johnson-Gilbert will be held at noon on Wednesday 10 February, at St Botolph-without-Aldersgate, in St Martin's le Grand, London EC1.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

**The Princess Royal**, Colonel, The Blues and Royals, visits the Royal Horse Guards Barracks, London SW1; and as President of Patrons, Crime Concern, attends the Prudential Youth Action Luncheon, London EC1.

**The Duke of Gloucester** attends a reception for Ajab Housing Association, Ajab House, London N16.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am; band provided by the Scots Guards.

**Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS** are charged at 25p a line (VAT extra). Other announcements are charged at £10 a line (VAT extra).

## OBITUARIES/7

### HISTORICAL NOTES

MELISSA BENN

## From personal tragedy to new ways of living

MOTHERHOOD is a theme that has, unsurprisingly, been tackled by some of the great feminists of the post-Enlightenment era. Several of these writers, such as Simone de Beauvoir and Germaine Greer, have written about the topic without being mothers themselves. This has lent their arguments an appealing sweep and didacticism but it has also placed more emphasis on rationality and free will than many mothers feel themselves to possess who are taught to depend entirely on their husbands.

It has been suggested that Wollstonecraft was not a mother when she wrote it, although it touches often on the theme of motherhood. Rearing a family, she argued, was a perfectly proper occupation for a woman, unlike taking an unhealthy interest in one's appearance, but it must be undertaken in a spirit of self-reliance. "To be a good mother, a woman must have sense and that independence of mind which few women possess who are taught to depend entirely on their husbands."

Other feminists have tackled the theme as a direct result of bearing and rearing children. Perhaps the greatest modern text on motherhood is Adrienne Rich's *Of Woman Born: Motherhood as Experience and Institution* (1971). This work spoke directly to a generation of highly-educated post-war women, many of whom found themselves plunged from their early twenties, into sole care of home and children. Rich addressed the painful and deep ambivalence that so many women feel in relation to their own offspring.

The conflict between experience and polemic can be traced back to the work of one of the first feminist agitators of the modern era, Mary Wollstonecraft, who published her "Vindication of the Rights of Woman" in 1792. With its spirited arguments for women's economic and professional freedom, this lengthy pamphlet has been

daughter by undertaking a journalistic trip of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The articles, written in the form of letters, speak of a very different Wollstonecraft to her earlier work. Their tone is sober and tender, particularly about her daughter Fanny.

I feel more than the dependent and oppressed state of her sex. I dread that she should be forced to sacrifice her heart to her husband, her love to her heart. With trembling hand I shall cultivate sensibility and cherish deficiency of sentiment. I dread to unfold her mind, lest it should render her unfit for the world she is to inhabit — Happy woman! What fate is thine!

It is impossible not to feel touched by Wollstonecraft's personal tragedy two centuries on. She was a volatile woman who risked all for love. But she also lived in an age where economic independence for women was a rarity and unmarried motherhood a scandal. And, of course, childbirth itself was a far greater physical risk than it is today. Wollstonecraft died of blood poisoning barely two weeks after the birth of her second daughter. It is impossible not to feel deep gratitude to writers like her who have tried to argue for new ways of living for women, men and children, braving ridicule and hatred from the more conventional parts of society.

Melissa Benn is the author of *"Madonna and Child: towards a new politics of motherhood"* (Vintage £7.99)

## Ancillary relief is fixed by court order

### THURSDAY LAW REPORT

21 JANUARY 1999

**Xydihas v Xydihas**

*Court of Appeal*

(Lord Justice Stuart-

Smith, Lord Justice

Thorpe and Lord

Justice Mummery)

21 December 1998

ORDINARY CONTRACTUAL principles did not apply to an agreement for the compromise of an ancillary relief, such an agreement could only be rendered enforceable by being converted into an order of the court, after which the rights and obligations of the parties were determined by the order, and not by any preceding agreement.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of Harry Costas Xydihas against an order of the district judge in ancillary relief proceedings.

The wife had petitioned for divorce and applied for ancillary relief. A trial date was fixed, but after negotiations heads of settlement were largely agreed, and the wife's solicitors wrote to the court suggesting that the case be removed from the list subject to a short appointment.

At the short appointment, however, the husband's solicitor stated on instructions that all offers were withdrawn and that the case would be fully fought. The wife applied for an order that: "The respondent do show cause why an order should not be made in the terms of an agreement reached between the petitioner and the respondent between 22-29 August 1998." The judge found that it was clear that the parties had wished to conclude an agreement before the court was called upon to decide the issue, and made an order essentially in the terms of the draft agreement. The husband appealed.

He submitted that the question was to be decided on the application of normal contractual principles, which dictated that unless all the material terms were agreed, or the contract contained an agreed mechanism for ascertaining what was not agreed, then there was no contract.

Patrick Eccles QC and Edward Hess (Blakemores, Leamington Spa) for the appellant; Michael Horowitz QC and Timothy Bishop (Mercy Messenger, Solihull) for the respondent.

Lord Justice Thorpe said that ordinary contractual principles did not decide the issues in the appeal. That was because an agreement for the compromise of an ancillary relief application did not give rise to a contract enforceable in law. The parties seeking to uphold such an agreement could not sue for specific performance. The only way of rendering the bargain enforceable was to convert the concluded agreement into an order of the court. Thereafter, the rights and obligations of the parties were determined by the order and not by any agreement which preceded it.

KATE O'HANLON  
Bartister

**WORDS**  
CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE  
uberate, v.

No sooner had I bought a hardback for \$6 than Borders are doing the paperback reversion by Barbara Kipfer, she of 14,000 Things to Be Happy About. A.F. Sison is surely number 14,001. Both editions have their uses. No crib, it makes one verify whether a word is the precise one, as I did when wanting something to describe the way in which a particular piece of prose was "fuelled" — *uberated*, from the Latin for *udder*, as used by Cockeram in 1623.

DILEMMAS  
WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

## Should I throw out my drug-dealer son?

Anne's 24-year-old son lives at home, stays in bed till late, watches TV and gets extra money from drug-dealing. Though clever, he dropped out of A-levels. His father wants to throw him out, but Anne worries he'd get further into drugs and end up in prison. What should she do?

## VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

**A**part from the drug-dealing and the age, Anne's son could be me as a 19-year-old. I never took A-levels, dropped out of secretarial college and art school, dropped out of finishing school in France, and spent a good nine months mucking around at home wondering what to do and feeling depressed and aimless. God knows how I survived, but had there been drugs readily available to deal in, who knows - I might have supplemented my income by buying small bits of dope and flogging them to friends.

I wasn't thrown out of home, but events took place that forced me to think about getting somewhere of my own, and that got me started. As for Anne's son, there is no real reason for the *status quo* to change. He's got a bed, he's got food, he's got television; and every night he can go out, get stoned, do a few deals and roll back home.

Smoking dope, which presumably he does, will take away most of his motivation, and so the situation could well go on for ever. He is 24, which is a bit elderly to be doing the loafing-around number, and the longer he stays at home doing nothing, the less self-respect he will have, the longer the gap will be on his CV, and the more depressed he'll be.

Probably it would be easiest to encourage him to move out. He could be

given lots of time, and some financial help. At least he would have to get up in the morning to look for rooms. And if he became a drug-dealer it would be terribly sad, but at 24 he has to take responsibility for his own life and its consequences. The last policeman I talked to, who was head of a London section, said he longed for drugs to be legalised because drug-dealing kept young people off the streets and in work.

And if he did end up in prison, at least he'd have endless opportunities for doing good and bad. As he is, he is barely living. Better to have lived and lost than never to have lived at all. But that's obviously not an option it's easy to risk when your own son's involved. My advice would be to pay for him to go round the world, if Anne could afford it. Make him into a ticket-of-leaves man. Ensure that the first stop is not Amsterdam, but rather Australia, staying with a cheery, outdoorsy sheep farmer. This is a way of getting rid of him but disguising it as an exciting experience.

Which it is. If he goes to India, he cannot fail to appreciate how incredibly lucky he is. If he stays with Anne, he will know nothing but the patterns on his own four walls, the glimmer of daytime TV and the gloomy smell of dope down the pub. No life for a young man. Or indeed anyone.

## READERS' SUGGESTIONS

I know how he feels. I think that I am similar to your son. I have always been multi-talented and of above average intelligence. I have a problem of not being able to stick to any one project for long.

After school, I was torn between art school, and doing a business degree. I am now at Nottingham university, but recently went over a rough patch and threatened to drop out in favour of art school.

Fortunately, my parents were firm and told me that they wouldn't support me to go to art school until I had finished my degree.

I think you should tell your son that you will not support him at home any longer, but will pay for him to gain qualifications, then help him find a place to stay. Perhaps you should help in guiding him to a career that utilises his

creativity, and involves a lot of dynamic change. NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Aim for a happy life

My brother, now 57, has never stuck at anything for more than two or three years but he's successfully mastered and practised a huge number of skills. He's been a commercial traveller, a jobbing builder, a district councillor, a sheep-breeder...

I am sure my parents were worried about him when he was in his twenties, but he's had a happy life and has a lovely family and a host of friends - what more could one ask?

JOHN HAWGOOD

Durham

Be cruel to be kind

Ten years ago, I relied on my grandparents for everything. I was into drugs, and

stole money from them to fund my diversions. I believe this was because I suffered from catastrophically low self-esteem. But the reason was that I never did anything constructive.

Anyway, I was finally asked to leave their home, and drifted into a series of low-paying clerical jobs, until finally I got my act together and went back to school.

Now I am about to get my degree, and have a place on a graduate trainee programme. I value my achievements because I have earned them, rather than had them bestowed upon me.

Forcing me to leave home was the best thing my grandparents ever did for me. You may want a good life for your son, but if he chooses not to accept your gifts you can't force him to. It's up to him.

B FOWLER

London

we'll never get back together again. Should I insist on hanging on, or should I go?

Yours sincerely, Brian

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send let-

ters and dilemmas to *Virginia Ironside, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for the bouquet.*

**NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA**

Dear Virginia,  
My girlfriend and I have been living together for three years and things haven't really been going right, despite lots of talking. Now she wants a trial separation. I worry that once we part

ers and dilemmas to *Virginia Ironside, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for the bouquet.*

## CLASSIFIED

## Legal Notices

**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
Commissioner The Inland Trust (R117229). The Inland Trust is a registered charity to alter the constitution of the trustee body.  
Reference (A-17229) Date  
The Commission has made a scheme for these charities. A copy of the new memorandum and articles of association can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St. Albans House, 17 St. Albans Street, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.

## INSOLVENCY RULES 1995

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T/A THE VICTORIA HOTEL  
(in Liquidation)

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# Fresh in from Frisco

Compared with its Angeleno neighbour, the San Francisco Symphony is an unknown quantity. But as London audiences will discover tonight, under Michael Tilson Thomas it's a world-class force. By Matthew Daines

**F**ollowing close on the heels of the predominantly West Coast visitors to the Barbican Centre's "American Pioneers" series last autumn, California musicians are back in London once again tonight when the San Francisco Symphony makes only its second London appearance since Michael Tilson Thomas became its principal conductor in 1995. Having previously held the same position with the London Symphony Orchestra since 1988, Tilson Thomas is, of course, no stranger to the Barbican, but his appearance with the SFS marks a new high-water mark in American music. It signifies not only the growing stature of American symphony orchestras outside the "big five" - New York, Boston, Cleveland, Philadelphia and Chicago - but also a coming of age for West Coast musical life.

Unlike the Los Angeles Philharmonic, which gave two sensational performances at last summer's Proms, the recent achievements of the San Francisco Symphony have largely gone unsung. Indeed, the city of San Francisco itself has long languished in the shadow of Los Angeles, which attracted a string of emigre composers during the inter- and post-war years: Stravinsky, Schoenberg, Korngold and Martinu all made their homes there. The San Francisco Bay area, meanwhile, cultivated native Californian composers such as Henry Cowell, the inventor of the cluster, who grew up in the southern suburb of Menlo Park, and his student Lou Harrison, John Cage's microtonal collaborator who spent his spare time studying scores in San Francisco's public library. It also witnessed the birth of American minimalism. LaMonte Young studied at UC Berkeley in the late fifties; Steve Reich came west a few years later to study with Darius Milhaud at Mills College, Oakland; in 1964 the San Francisco Tape Music Center acted as midwife to Terry Riley's minimalist classic *In C*.

The San Francisco Symphony, too, has a venerable history. Its first concertmaster, Louis Persinger, attracted the New York-born Yehudi Menuhin, who made his concerto debut with the SFS in 1926, as well as the Russian-born Isaac Stern, who made his debut with the orchestra 10 years later. Its most illustrious conductor during the Thirties and Forties was Pierre Monteux; Seiji Ozawa became principal conductor in 1974. But recently, it's the name of John Adams, the composer of *Nixon in China*, that has been most indelibly linked with the orchestra.

Adams, a native New Englander, had moved to the city after graduating from Harvard in the early Seventies and became director of the Contemporary Music Ensemble at the San Francisco Conservatory. So when the Dutch conductor Edo de Waart was appointed principal conductor of the SFS in 1977 and began, as he recalls, "looking for someone young to help me find my way around American music", Adams was the obvious choice.

Milton Salkind, then president of the Conservatory, made the initial introductions. Peter Pastreich, executive director



MTT balances the needs of the core audience with his support for new music

San Francisco Chronicle

of the SFS, also brought Michael Steinberg from Boston as artistic adviser. With this triumvirate in place, the "New and Unusual Music" series was born, ushering in a golden age of musical life in the city and recordings of such Adams classics as *Shaker Loops*, *Hormonium* and *Hormonielehre*.

"Certainly it was the most exciting four or five years of my life," reflects De Waart from his new base in Sydney, Australia. "I had a sense that something good was happening, but how good it was I didn't realise until later." For Adams, the experience of programming the "New and Unusual Music" series and the chance to write for the San Francisco Symphony was the ap-

pointed composer-in-residence in 1982 provided the environment he needed to learn about orchestral writing.

The relationship between Edo and John was such a good example of a collaboration between a music director and a composer, this kind of intricate touching-up of details in rehearsals and kind of give-and-take," says Jordi Fleezanis, former co-leader of the orchestra. "The whole orchestra was really a kind of laboratory for him... This stuff was really fresh - very recently out of the birth canal, as it were."

After De Waart's departure for Minnesota in 1985, the SFS consolidated itself as a world-class orchestra under the dir-

ection of the Swedish conductor Herbert Blomstedt, who went on to put it on the musical map with tours of Asia, a stunning debut at the 1991 Salzburg Festival, and a series of acclaimed recordings for Decca.

But the iconoclastic tradition of San Francisco's musical forefathers finally came full circle in 1995 with the appointment of Bernstein's protégé Michael Tilson Thomas as principal conductor. As an American-born, native-Angeleno conductor, Tilson Thomas is a rare commodity. His appointment builds on the strengths of both his immediate predecessors: the massive personnel changes made by De Waart, who replaced almost half the play-

ers, and the discipline and stylistic finesse cultivated by Blomstedt. According to Peter Pastreich, who has managed the orchestra for more than 20 years, "Michael brings an interest in similar repertoire to Blomstedt, but there's more showmanship and a more outward-going and communicative approach. And he's got the ensemble to do it with."

More significantly, Tilson Thomas's interests in Cowell and Harrison constitute a living link to San Francisco's iconoclastic musical past, while his penchant for American composers manifests itself in subtle programming that balances the needs of the core symphony audience with his support for new music. Thus the programme he brings to the Barbican this month combines classic American music - Charles Ives's *Three Places in New England* (or *A New England Symphony*) - with Prokofiev's *Fifth Symphony* and Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto* (with Gil Shaham).

Tilson Thomas's masterstroke, though, has been to start performing the music of composers whom he counts as his friends and mentors outside the traditional symphony season. A series of new summer festivals began in 1995 with the two-week-long "An American Festival": the sight of MTT (as Tilson Thomas is universally known) improvising with members of the Grateful Dead was the talk of the town. "Celebrations of the Sacred and Profane" and a Mahler festival followed. This summer's event promises to focus on the music of a single 20th-century composer: "These festivals are part of what makes Michael want to be in San Francisco," says Pastreich. "They are that important to him."

MTT's tenure at Davies Symphony Hall began with a free outdoor concert attended by 11,000 people. Free open-air concerts that make up the Stern Grove Festival confirm how hard the orchestra works to capture the heart of the city. But San Francisco has always taken its culture seriously. A key component of its healthy arts scene has been the hotel tax levied on visiting tourists; the proceeds go direct to the city's arts budgets. There's no denying, too, that the size of the city's large gay population, with its higher-than-average disposable income, is highly advantageous for the arts.

Sophisticated programming, aggressive outreach, imaginative educational initiatives and creative audience development techniques can all be found in Europe. But the rise of the San Francisco Symphony is the story of a regional orchestra that's turned itself into a world-class ensemble by reinventing itself to reflect the changing needs of 21st-century audiences and the diverse communities it serves. It's a salutary tale with valuable lessons about a distinctly Californian approach to an American problem - lessons that regional orchestras in Europe might usefully follow.

Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the San Francisco Symphony at the Barbican Hall, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) at 7.30pm tonight  
Booking (0171-494 5040) to 20 Feb

It's a kind of magic

## THEATRE

STREET OF CROCODILES  
QUEEN'S THEATRE  
LONDON

IT'S NEARLY seven years now since Theatre de Complicite's *Street of Crocodiles* began life in the Cottesloe and took the breath away with those stupendous opening images. Figures from the story's past hatch out of crates of books or emerge, splitting plumes of water from tin baths. And, above all the rest, in more senses than one, a man walks down a brick wall at the back of the stage so that we seem to be getting an aerial view of a saunter along a moonlit street. "Is that abseiling or magic?" asked my 11-year-old assistant, as we watched this wondrously inventive and moving revival at the Queen's Theatre. We both readily agreed that the more perceptive answer would be "magic".

The piece works even better in the current larger space, the sheer height of the stage creating a brooding, shadowy top layer over this phantasmagoric plunge into the creative imagination of Bruno Schulz, the Polish-Jewish author, shot dead by an SS agent in 1942, whose weird stories are the launch-pad for the show. Looking at my old review, I found that I concentrated mostly on the earlier parts of this expressionist, physical-theatre event. Perhaps because I was viewing it with an impressionable child, I was more bowled over this time by the harrowing later stages, scored against searingly bitter-sweet and agonised string music.

The sinister sound of an army patrol punctuates the piece in which the lanky, sensitive Cesar Sarachou once again plays Joseph, the Schulz-surrogate at bay in a dark, totalitarian regime. Books - their vulnerability and transformative powers - are a strong and recurring image. Flapped about, alongside broiliies, they become the exotic aviary of the hero's eccentric father. Or, when the outside threat is at its greatest, rows of volumes cascade from the shelves with the frightening speed and force of a long, coiled spring.

My companion said that much of it reminded her of *Alice*, if with a sadder undertow. The company creates a surreal, balletic world in which would-be lovers strain towards each other in an attempt to join the matching halves of symbolically broken plates, hindered by great bolts of cloth from the father's drapery store. And there's the marvellous final sequence when, after being shot, Joseph strips down to his undershorts and is passed tenderly, like a tiny baby, down the row of his family. A piercing image of the prematurity of that loss.

PAUL TAYLOR

## Be faithful to your dreams

### READING

BRENDAN KENNELLY  
THE VOICE BOX  
LONDON

him to journey at his side and talk with him about this and that. The experience turned into a long sequence of poems.

The way in which a poet reads is always a guide to what he is reading. In the past Kennelly has thrown down his words like a challenge, an indictment to rude literary behaviour. At The Voice Box he is turning over the pages of his book in a pernickety, chastened, rummaging way, and reading the words as if, though having written them, he is still

in pursuit of their significance. He is presenting us with a journey along roads which he is still walking.

Before a section called "Flowers and History" he pauses, flinging off his spectacles, to talk about something wondrous that happened during one of these spectral conversations. The face is fleshy, the cheeks a scoured apple-red, the chin companionable, the filmy eyes a delicate, cornflower-blue. One arm of his spectacles is heavily swathed in clear Sellotape.

The anecdote, once it begins, seems to take you by the elbow in some warm snug. It could go on for ever. And you would probably want it to - had

you time. "It's all about our being walking graveyards," he says. "About the exhumation of memory - which is as much a part of writing a poem as it is of writing a piece of music. These voices were coming at me, some from when I was as young as three or four..."

He recalls one in particular, the voice of Mary Ann, a neighbour. Well, it is not so much the voice he remembers, as the way she used to laugh - throwing her head back until her false teeth fell out, as she bragged about her pension.

Then, finally, the man made of rain, ever serendipitous, invites him to visit the grave of his father, and to dandle his father's bones in his hands. Ken-

nelly recalls his father with gentleness and affection. "He was such a lovely, intelligent, lazy man," he tells us, "who always used to say that the streets of Ireland were never well aired before 11 o'clock." Then his mood darkens. "He was also an example of the far and against mind, the idea that we have an enemy, and that there are no complexities. He was a Collins man himself."

Then down he goes, into that blue Shannon light of his father's grave, peering about for those marvellous speaking bones.

"The thing is not so much to explain the dreams as to be faithful to them," he adds, shouting up to us. MICHAEL GLOVER

ONCE UPON a time not so long ago, that sixtiesomething-year-old Irish poet Brendan Kennelly was a raucous, joyously blaspheming sort of an individual who was in the business of ruffling feathers - remember the one about James Joyce having dinner with the Holy Family, for example? This week, he seemed altogether different - calmer, more subdued, more ethereal, something like a challenge, an indictment to rude literary behaviour. At The Voice Box he is turning over the pages of his book in a pernickety, chastened, rummaging way, and reading the words as if, though having written them, he is still

## And the outlook is unsettled

### THEATRE

BAD WEATHER  
THE PIT  
BARBICAN, LONDON

gated sheeting of a run-down Middlesbrough council estate. Luke, a young yob, has beaten up a man outside a Chinese takeaway, but it's his best friend, Jamie, who takes the rap and is sent down for four years. Jamie's depressed, déclassé mother, Kay, once the rich heiress of a rather different estate in France, embarks on a sexual relationship with the one juror who sided with her son. But the idea that we are in for a social-realistic piece about deprivation and divided loyalty (will the incor-

porated Jamie grass?) is quickly scotched by the arrival of the mother's one-time nanny. Played with a quite mesmerising authority and understated chic by Susan Engel, 60-year-old Agnes takes enigmatic control of the situation, like a cross between a Gallic Mary Poppins and the Duke in *Measure for Measure*. There is something oddly Shakespearean about the play's movement from Teesside to the idyll of a sun-kissed, dilapidated French chateau where Agnes sweeps the cast off for a holiday. It reminds you of those shifts into the heightened realms of *Arden*, *Ilyria* and the wilds of Wales from which people emerge transformed in his comedies. Ex-

cept that redemption comes at a price, and only ambiguously. In the world Holman creates here, with its repetitive pattern of emotional displacement, it's a world in which, bizarrely, mothers such as Kay (who is all pained and frayed refinement in Susan Brown's moving performance) are better at being surrogate parents to other people's children than proper mothers to their own. The imprisoned youth (played with a pent-up, cigarette-crushing intensity by Ryan Pope) is more adept at taking the rap than in taking responsibility for himself. Even the weather, with its freak spring snow showers, seems to be firing just off-target.

What helps to bring these

## THE INDEPENDENT

### Win a short break on a Mediterranean cruise

The Short Breaks Exhibition is being held at the Royal Horticultural Halls from January 22-24. It is the only UK exhibition dedicated to short breaks and exciting days out. Over 200 travel companies will be there offering everything from city breaks to rural retreats, activity adventures to health spas. The Royal Horticultural Halls are located on Greycoat Street, London SW1. The nearest mainline station is Victoria. Show opening days Friday and Saturday 10.00am - 6.00pm, Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm. Tickets are £8 on the door. Take along your copy of *The Independent* and buy a ticket for the Short Breaks Exhibition and get your next ticket free.

To help to promote the first Short Breaks Exhibition, British Airways Holidays and Orient Lines are offering readers of *The Independent* the chance to win a pair of tickets to sail away on a 5 night Mediterranean "Rome & The Riviera" cruise on the Marco Polo ship. Experience the sights, sounds, tastes and treasures that some of Europe's top destinations have to offer. Highlights include Italian ancient cities of Rome and Pisa, chic Portofino, glittering Cannes on the French Riviera and Spain's sunshine island of Majorca.

The prize includes British Airways scheduled flights, 1 night pre departure stay in the "Eternal City" of Rome and 1 night post cruise stay in Barcelona, arguably Spain's most stylish and exotic city. Brochure Prices from £1,065. Three runners up will also win a set of British Airways luggage merchandise, including an on board trolley case (compliant with the new cabin storage restrictions), cabin bag and holdall - normally retail price £160. Plus when you attend the Short Breaks Exhibition you could enjoy an extra 10% saving on 26 Wintersaver City break destinations, with already great prices such as Paris £119, Amsterdam £155, Rome £189, Florence £199, Madrid £179...

All you have to do is to dial the number below, answer the following question on the line and leave your name, full address and a daytime contact number.

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a) Olympia b) Royal Horticultural Halls c) Earls Court

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1. No cash alternatives will be offered. 2. The prizes are for 2 people and includes return schedule flights, return private transfers, 5 nights cruise, 2 nights accommodation (1 night in Barcelona and 1 night room at hotel specified by BA). 3. Travel date (7-14 May) which may be subject to change at time of booking. 4. Wintersaver city break dates are London, Paris, Amsterdam, Rome, Florence, Madrid, Barcelona, Majorca, Cannes, and Dubrovnik. 5. Any amendment to the prizes offered will incur administration costs. 6. Normal terms and conditions apply. 7. Wintersaver city break rates shown £35-£41 Jan. & Feb. 2000. 8. Cruise cost £695 per person and should not be longer than two months. 9. Wintersaver city break rates shown £35-£41 Jan. & Feb. 2000. 10. Normal Independent rates apply. 11. The Editor's decision is final. Promoter: Independent Newspapers.

## FILM

## Hey sister, go sister

**A**t the age of eight she was considered a remarkable musician. Invited to play a solo for BBC radio, she agreed on condition that she could bring along her younger sister who later got an earful from her mother for bursting a hole through a drum. The name of this brilliant soloist was Hilary du Pré, and she played the flute; the sister who disrupted the recording was called Jackie, and she played the cello.

By now we know which sister turned out to be the real prodigy, though why Jacqueline was favoured with greatness while Hilary failed her flute exam is a mystery that *Hilary and Jackie* doesn't try to unlock. There are scenes of Mrs du Pré (Celia Imrie) and Hilary eating sandwiches on a bench, waiting for Jackie to emerge from her lesson; but this is a shorthand for hard work, not genius. Film deals with genius by turning it into something else, such as eccentricity or madness, or illness – all three of which figure prominently in the short life of Jacqueline du Pré.

Anand Tucker's film is not so much a biopic as the dual portrait of a strange and intense relationship. It has been adapted by Frank Cottrell Boyce from the recent memoir by Hilary and her brother, Piers du Pré, whose central revelation concerns the bizarre sexual *menage* which Jackie instigated with her sister and brother-in-law. Divided into two narratives, the first half of the film maps Hilary's dawning realisation that her life will be spent listening to people enquiring after "your marvellous sister". Indeed, it's more painful than that: it tells of a woman carving out a life in the shadow of another's arm, only to have that life usurped by the very same person. Hilary falls in love with an amiable young conductor, Kiffer Finzi (David Morrissey), marries him and withdraws to what she assumes will be a haven of calm in the country.

The turning-point, not to say the talking-

## THE BIG PICTURE



ANTHONY QUINN

**HILARY AND JACKIE** (15)  
DIRECTOR: ANAND TUCKER  
STARRING: EMILY WATSON,  
RACHEL GRIFFITHS,  
DAVID MORRISSEY  
121 MINS

point, of the film arrives when Jackie shows up unannounced and, following a jolly reunion around the hearth, asks Hilary for the loan of her husband. Hilary refuses, not unnaturally, but when Jackie bolts into the woods to tear off her clothes and howl like a loon, she relents and persuades Kiffer to help out in the guest bedroom. This is the defining moment of the du Pré sisters' story, yet the film-makers hold back from explaining why Hilary made such a sacrifice. Was it a masochistic kind of complaisance on her part, or rather a guilty acknowledgement of Jackie's fragile acquaintance with sanity?

Just as we're trying to decide – my

money was on Jackie being a predatory, egomaniacal monster – the film switches focus and runs the story back through Jackie's perspective. What seemed a manipulative streak is gradually revealed as a chronic need to be loved. Cosseted by her parents till the age of 20, Jackie was packed off on a two-year European concert tour with a Davidoff cello and no idea of how to survive. What emerges poignantly is not just her inadequacy but a dreadful sense

of loneliness, illustrated in a small domestic detail. In the first part of the film, the du Pré family receive a parcel from Jackie on tour in Russia, and tear it open excitedly: it turns out to be a bundle of dirty laundry she has sent home. Yet the outrage you might feel on the family's behalf softens into pity when Jackie receives the washed laundry with almost rapturous gratitude, hugging the clothes to her face to catch the scent of home.

For all their attempts at fairness, however, the film-makers can't help making Jackie seem conniving, snobbish and wholly incapable of taking pleasure in others' good fortune. When Hilary has her modest nuptials at the register office, for example, Jackie retaliates by marrying the pianist Daniel Barenboim (James Frain) with the maximum of fuss. She reacts to the news of her father's contracting Parkinson's disease in cold fury: he's trying to compete with her own crippling multiple sclerosis. Even in illness, her basic instinct was to upstage. It's to Emily Watson's credit that she makes Jackie's selfishness and vulnerability all of a piece; that look of frowning, almost agonised concentration as she bends to her cello is, paradoxically, the time she seems most at home. Watson will probably get the plaudits (and the awards) for her performance, though I found Rachel Griffiths' patient, fearful Hilary the more affecting of the two. The way she struggles to hide the hurt of Jackie's casual cruelty behind a smile has nuances that Watson's more hysterical interpretation can't match.

Absorbing as it is, *Hilary and Jackie* feels a confused and slightly prurient film. While it seeks to celebrate one woman's extraordinary gift, its focus is in fact the weird entanglements of her sex life. Neither is adequately elucidated. Tucker and his team apparently consulted Hilary du Pré prior to filming, which may explain why it is, ultimately, a work whose emphasis are as conspicuous as its omissions.



Emily Watson as Jackie: 'A manipulative streak gradually revealed as a chronic need to be loved'

## ALSO SHOWING

**BULWORTH** WARREN BEATTY (18) ■ **54** MARK CHRISTOPHER (15) ■ **THE MERCHANT OF FOUR SEASONS** RAINER WERNER FASSBINDER (NC) ■ **PRACTICAL MAGIC** GRIFFIN DUNNE (12) ■ **CLASS TRIP** CLAUDE MILLER (15)

**BULWORTH** WARREN BEATTY (18) ■ **54** MARK CHRISTOPHER (15) ■ **THE MERCHANT OF FOUR SEASONS** RAINER WERNER FASSBINDER (NC) ■ **PRACTICAL MAGIC** GRIFFIN DUNNE (12) ■ **CLASS TRIP** CLAUDE MILLER (15)

**BULWORTH** Warren Beatty is a man whose time has come, and gone. Haggard with exhaustion and self-disgust on the eve of the California elections, he goes of the deep end and hires hitmen to assassinate him. Suddenly divested of responsibility, he turns to himself, proclaiming one truth to a black church congregation, exposing hypocrisy and falsehood in all quarters – it's like a political version of Tourette's syndrome. What's more, he delivers his sermon in the borrowed cadences of a black rapper and swaps his suit tie for homeboy street-gear.

**Bulworth**, written and directed by Beatty, aims to be a frisky satire on America's corrupt body politic, and undeniably takes risks – something Beatty hasn't done in a long while, but it's an awful mess. Where his old friend Robert Altman might have

shaped and pointed **Bulworth's** scandalous shenanigans, Beatty simply sprays around the farce like a Grand Prix winner's champagne. It has energy and nerve to spare, but it's too chaotic to be truly subversive. There's more than a whiff of condescension, too, in positing black American street life as the white man's road to freedom. I suspect I'm not alone in finding Beatty's rhyming stylings pretty feeble. A white man can approximate rap – Tom Wolfe did so brilliantly in his novel *A Man in Full* – but this evidence I'd keep any recording contracts on hold.

**Mark Christopher's** feature debut **54** is the second film within six months – *The Last Days of Disco* was the first – to hymn the notorious Manhattan night-spot Studio 54, though it plays more like a cleaned-up version of *Boogie Nights*. Shane

(Ryan Phillippe) is a suburban Adonis who one night catches the eye of the club impresario Steve Rubell (Mike Myers) amid the jostling throng outside 54; he soon finds himself inside, patrolling the strobe-lit disco inferno as one of the bare-chested busboys who service the celebrity congregants and their hangers-on. Cue a mildly cautionary tale of arriviste gullibility, spiralling drug consumption and moral burnout, all set to a familiar sound-track of Seventies dance floor stompers.

Phillippe's handsome but dim *ingénue* just can't command the film, and supporting turns by Salma Hayek and Neve Campbell are undermined by a clanking, sophomoric script. Mike Myers perfects a contemptible allure as the infamous Rubell; this laugh is the most unpleasant I've heard since James Woods's but his club's reputation as

boy of the new German cinema. It recounts the overpoweringly bleak story of Hans Epp (Hans Hirschmüller), an ex-Legionnaire who has seen his dreams and ambitions dashed, mostly by women. Despised by his mother, rejected by the great love of his life, cheated on by his wife, Hans has fallen from bourgeois respectability by setting up as a fruit-seller on the back streets of Munich. Nothing, not even the minor success of his business, can rescue him from the profound depression that gradually paralyses his will to live.

Fassbinder films this family melodrama in a carefully detached way, leaving us in some doubt as to whether it's masochism prompting Hans towards his doom, or simply the director reasserting his nihilistic world-view. The film grips, in a morbid, crushing, hopeless kind of way, which is probably as much as

the late director would have wished. I'm surprised they let Griffin Dunne make another feature after the atrocious *Meg Ryan* comedy *Adapted to Love*, but plainly somebody in Hollywood likes him. His directorial reputation is in no way enhanced by *Practical Magic*, a fey and vaporous excursion into the supernatural starring Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman as sisters descended from a long line of witches.

All this means is that they get to inherit a beautiful old New England mansion, lounge about in cut plaid pyjamas and run into trouble with men, who, according to an old family curse, are doomed to croak should they get involved with either of them. Filming in a golden-syrup light, Dunne seems to have little ambition beyond making his stars look adorable (not tricky) and hoping we'll have forgotten most of *The Witches* of *Eastwick*. Aidan Quinn, showing up late as a hunky cop, is a blatant mailshot to the target audience. A word to that audience: you don't need this fatuous, sentimental glop.

**Claude Miller's** *Class Trip* is a quietly devastating study in childhood terror: Nicolas (Clement Van Den Berghe) is a shy teenage loner, stifled by an over-protective father and teased as a scaredy-cat by his classmates. While on a school trip to the French Alps, the boy soon falls prey to vivid nightmares of abduction and death, the cause of which is slowly – and traumatically – unearthed. Miller tightens the noose of his plot with such stealth that the denouement feels both shocking and inevitable.

AQ

All films on general release from tomorrow



Warren Beatty in 'Bulworth'

## RUSHES

WHAT ARE your three favourite films of all time? Whatever they are, Sky Premier wants to hear from you. At something called a "celebrity brunch" in London's West End earlier this week (Lord Attenborough, Barry Norman and fruit kebabs), the satellite channel launched Millennium Movies, a poll to discover the British public's favourite 100 films.

He remembered a particularly arduous series of water-tank scenes during the shoot of his first film, *In Which We Serve*. While everyone else, including himself, slipped into the filthy water with great reluctance, Noel Coward presented himself immaculately at the water's edge and executed a perfect belly-flop into the tank.

"Darlings," he remarked as he surfaced, "there's dysentery in every ripple."

Lord Attenborough is, of course, currently the president.

AS IS customary, a couple of anecdotes sped the morning along, the best of which came from Lord Attenborough's 37-year film career.

He remembered a particularly arduous series of water-tank scenes during the shoot of his first film, *In Which We Serve*. While everyone else, including himself, slipped into the filthy water with great reluctance, Noel Coward presented himself immaculately at the water's edge and executed a perfect belly-flop into the tank.

A few minutes later, Bazzar hinted that the results might not exactly cheer up aspiring *ceutars*. *Star Wars*, he guessed, will probably come out on top, with *Citizen Kane* unlikely to make the top 50.

Still, Sky Premier did its best to disguise the fact that Millennium Movies wants to turn the British public into one enormous focus group by announcing its donation of £250,000 to Rada, of which

nicely between his hunger for "the best show in town" and the tatters of his conscience, while Travolta knows that the dim Bailey deserves our scorn as much as he does our pity.

## VIDEO WATCH

MIKE HIGGINS



Matt LeBlanc – really lost in space

production design becomes just one more tawdry element competing for our attention. The efforts of the cast, including Gary Oldman, William Hurt, Matt LeBlanc and Heather Graham, don't do the film any favours either: They valiantly attempt to play the whole enterprise tongue-in-cheek. But there's only so much mileage to be had from the fact that the Robinson family, a gazillion miles from anywhere and engaged on a mission to save the earth, seem more concerned with whose turn it is to do the washing up.

**the class trip**  
a film by claude miller

"A film that stamps all over Hollywood portrayals of childhood innocence. Very dark, very good" ESQUIRE  
"Miller walks a knife edge of dreadful uncertainty with absolute assurance" EVENING STANDARD  
"A tightly crafted psychological thriller" THE GUARDIAN

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MIKE HIGGINS

You've got to have  
in the name of

Tr  
Toback directed  
Toback Jr. in *The Pack*, a breezy romantic drama about a competitive boxer. Over a decade later, the star and son are reunited for *Two Girls* and *A Guy*, a more sombre dissection of modern relationships, which *Toback's* duplicitous character cornered by the woman he has been two-timing and made to squirm. "We all wanted to work together again," says Toback, "but it wasn't until I saw Robert's name outside Malibu court house in his orange smock that I knew he was ready."

Toback wrote *Two Girls* and *The Pack* in a single week, then shot the film in 11 days before Downey went back behind bars. As a study of male selfishness, vanity, power, wheedling women, it's a triumph. But whether the character of Blake (Alfre Woodard) is debatable, I thought I was writing him, he was ready."

Whatever the truth, Toback is perturbed by the suggestion that his slippery lead is a self-portrait. Unlike other directorial sophomores, he's embraced the idea of living his life as a kind of wild, novelistic blur, while using his films to blur the boundary between reality and fantasy. "I barely find a distinction," says Toback. "I see my films as a continuation of what I'm thinking about while my life is a preparation for the next film."

His unique style of pre-production began as a student at Harvard in the 1960s, where Toback "sought out extreme experiences". On one occasion, he record to beat the world record for LSD, dropping a "psychedelic amount of acid and losing all sense of identity", before a kindly biochemist ended his eight-day trip by injecting

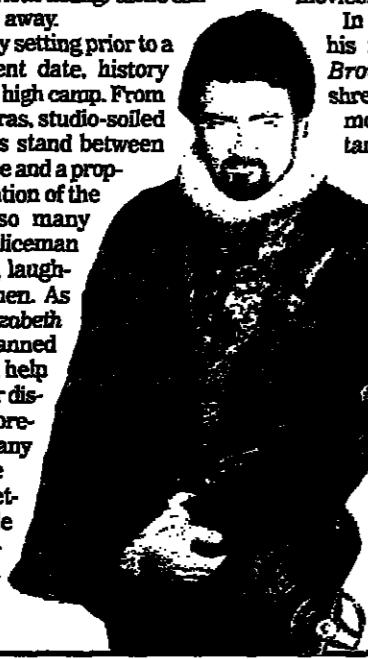
# A pox upon those men in tights

So you want to do doublet, hose and a bit of ruff... What's standing in your way? History, of course. Then again, the historical movie isn't quite what it used to be. By Boyd Tonkin

**S**hekhar Kapur may have picked up a sheaf of warm reviews for his Bollywood-flavoured chronicle of the young *Elizabeth*, but not many critics dwelt on a bit part that outshone even Eric Cantona's weirdly-vowelled cameo. As the French regent Mary of Guise, Fanny Ardant pouted and sneered and heaved to a pitch of bosomy excess that drove an earnest period piece well down the road towards *Carry On Up the Tudors*. Indeed, Barbara Windsor herself could hardly have surpassed the Fanny who dipped her flag in enemy gore and rasped at a cringing envoy: "Tell your English Queen not to send boozes to faaht Maree of Guise."

Did these OTT flourishes damage the picture? Not a bit. We expect a slice of ham served up with our screen history now. Two generations of gleeful parody - from *Up Pompeii and Morecambe and Wise to Blackadder* and beyond - have wrapped all costume drama in a swathe of farce that serious intentions (or serious acting) alone can never wish away.

For every setting prior to a pretty recent date, history now means high camp. From togas to tiaras, studio-soled conventions stand between the audience and a proper appreciation of the past like some many sleeping policemen. As Kapur's Elizabeth grasped, planned giggles can help suspend our disbelief and fore-stall too many out-of-place guffaws. Better to cackle at the director's bidding than



As in *Rosencrantz*

during that tender love scene or crucial diplomatic crisis. Costume cinema now has to vaccinate its viewers against what Ken Starr might call inappropriate laughter.

When, exactly, do our automatic sniggers end? In spite of Judi Dench's balloon-like bathing coozie and Billy Connolly's kilts, there seemed little intrinsically absurd about John Madden's *Mrs Brown*. A few decades further back, Jane Austen adaptations seldom suffer too much of a credibility gap from their snazzy waistcoats and A-line dresses. Could language be the key? Up to a point, but strip out the forsooths and gadzooks from the Flynn-and-Fairbanks era swashbuckler, and it still looks daft.

No: I have a theory that silliness ends when trousers begin. The arrival of tubular male legwear in the early 19th century (and, perhaps a bit more plausibly, the advent of photography) marks a decisive breach between ancients and moderns. On the button as ever, Mel Brooks fingered the problem in the subtitle he gave to his burlesque of Robin Hood movies: "Men in Tights".

In *Shakespeare in Love*, his next project after *Mrs Brown*, John Madden shrewdly plots a way through most of the men-in-tights tangles. His Oscar-tipped spoof-biopic embraces the corniest aspects of cinematic ruff trade and somehow comes through quite unscathed. How? The two-word answer is "Tom Stoppard", as the playwright's sprightly upgrade of a screenplay by Marc Norman allows him a new spin on some of his best - and oldest - tricks.

As in *Rosencrantz*

and *Guido's Tavern* (more than 30 years ago now), Stoppard doodles cheeky marginalia around the edges of Shakespearean lore and legend. In his trademark Existential-Lite fashion, he juggles in that shifting space between art and life, limelight and daylight. If the knowing gags of *Blackadder* prop up one end of *Shakespeare in Love*, the theatrical sorcery of *Les Enfants du Paradis* supports the other. Meanwhile, the whole genial shebang coasts along according to the rhythms of it'll-be-all-right-on-the-night-backstage melodrama. Broadway babes carouse in the gutters of Shoreditch: it's a sort of 42nd Alley.

Needless to say, the conceit of an upstairs-downstairs affair between Joe Fennes's blocked wordsmith and Gwyneth Paltrow's betrothed heiress owes as much to proven fact as *Star Trek* does to Stephen Hawking's astrophysics. Not that it ever aspires to authenticity: en route to

meeting the flame-haired Muse who will inspire *Romeo and Juliet*, young Will is toing over a turkey to be called *Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter*. Do we nod a nod to Marc Norman's script for that shipwreck of a seaborne epic, *Cuthroat Island*? I suspect we do.

Stoppard and Norman know that we know this is mostly amiable tosh. They take aim not at the neb-

Anachronistic gags drop through the script like a downpour on the groundlings' heads. Anthony Sher plays a magus-like shrink who parks the thwarted Will on his couch and asks "Are you lately humbled in the act of love?" A Thames ferryman drones, "I had that Christopher Marlowe in the boat once". And so, inexhaustibly, on.

And yet... If parody alone ac-

*We expect a slice of ham served up with our history now. History means high camp*

ulous reality of London in 1593 but at the crust of screen cliché that congeals around it. *Shakespeare in Love* niftily deflates not the actual theatre of the time but the Props Department version of it. One hopes that no film or TV actor will ever dare to glue on a goatee or strap on a scabbard in anger again.

counted for the pleasures of the film, it would hardly rise above the Monty Python benchmark. The pantomime jokes, the sly asides, the self-conscious historical howlers: all of these ploys inoculate us against the off-putting routines of the period biopic. Yet, once this vaccine kicks in, Stoppard, Norman and

Madden can do something rich and strange with a clapped-out genre. Behind the farce and flummery, they sow a genuine sense of the marvels of creation: how a private passion can flow obliquely into public art; or how a rabble of warring egos can somehow come together to make a wondrous new thing on stage (or screen).

This is a truly Shakespearean - and Stoppardian - insight, even if none of the dates add up, the Sonnets to a male "master-mistress" get redirected to La Falstaff, Judi Dench's Queen drops in on first nights, and Martin Clunes gives us the inevitable jowly burst of Burbage Behaving Badly. "It's a mystery," runs a line that passes from character to character like a relay baton - most movingly, when Mark Williams, as the tailor-turned-player who acts the Prologue in *Romeo and Juliet*, overcomes his stutter to voice the play's opening lines.

In mood, this glimpse of a miracle born out of comic muddle recalls not Romeo itself so much as a *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In the Athenian wood, that chaotic "story of the night" grows at last into "something of great constancy, but howsoever strange and admirable". In the end, it is all right on the night.

Stoppard knows (as Shakespeare did) that you can only reach that still point at the close of a historical romance via frequent recourse to the sort of gags and buffoonery that will scandalise the pedant and the purist. *Shakespeare in Love* touches a kind of awestruck lyricism through debunking laughter, not in spite of it. Other costume-drama contenders should take note - or else make sure that they set their scene securely in the Trouser Age.

*Shakespeare in Love* opens on 29 January



All they stood up in: although how much Joseph Fennes in 'Shakespeare in Love' (above) owes Rowan Atkinson's 'Blackadder' (below) is moot

## Truth is the drug

You've got to hand it to James Toback. Few film-makers have gone so far in the name of research and lived to tell the tale. By Liese Spencer



Who's zoomin' who? James Toback with Robert Downey Jr

Toback with a cocktail of hero- and thorazine that glued his brain back together.

Before his 28th birthday, he had married and divorced an English aristocrat and developed a ferocious gambling habit that would introduce him to a criminal underworld (dramatised in both 1977's *Fingers* and 1991's *Bugsy*) and make him dead to the time of \$1m.

"I do get excited by what other people would consider to be reckless behaviour," admits Toback. "I may be chemically addicted to it. I've had a few near-death experiences. I like it when the stakes are high."

After graduating, Toback began teaching at New York's City College and contributing articles to magazines. Assigned to write a piece on football-player Jim Brown, he disappeared into the sportsman's mansion where he swapped lectures for drug-fuelled orgies. When he surfaced, two years later, he wrote his first screenplay, *The Gambler*.

Part Dostoevsky, part autobiography, the film starred James Caan as a risk-addicted academic. With characteristic hyperbole, Toback sees it as his salvation. "If Karel Reisz had not chosen to direct *The Gambler*

I don't think I would have had a career in film-making. Left to my own devices, my naturally chaotic and provocative instincts would have long since led me to some catastrophic consequence. I think I would have been dead by now."

Toback's self-mythologising might seem pathetic were it not for the director's determination to translate his existential hell-raising into equally risky cinema. To date, Toback's attempts to put his student experiences on film in *Harvard Man* have founded (although a pre-Tiziano di Caprio was "dying to do it", Toback's script was turned down by 10 studios). But a succession of other, highly personal movies have confirmed critic David Thomson's description of Toback as "America's most uninhibited filmmaker", an auteur unafraid to risk life, limb and pretension to root out larger truths.

Take his ambitious 1989 documentary, *The Big Song*, which saw Toback rounding up a group of 19 talking heads (including an Auschwitz survivor, a movie star and a gangster) to talk about love, sex, death and the whole damn thing. Not all such gambles have paid off. Exposed's story of an interna-

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# The hospitality trade

Tourism, seldom a career choice for graduates, has been given an upgrade. By Kate Hilpern

**W**hen Rob Devlin embarked on a degree in popular music and cultural sociology, he had every intention of becoming a music journalist. But only a few months after leaving university, his aspirations not only changed direction completely but he found himself reaching them within an industry traditionally sneered at by graduates: tourism. What's more, he's earning double what he expected, with double the responsibility.

"I started working at the Granada Studio Tour in Manchester to earn some extra cash while I was a student," he explains. "Now, as entertainments manager, I'm responsible for a team of 70 people. The next step is becoming operations manager. I never dreamt of coming so far so fast."

The English Tourist Board (ETB) has found it so hard to attract graduates such as Rob, however, that it has launched an urgent recruitment drive. With at least 15 per cent of all vacancies remaining unfilled at any time, the ETB has started a net-based initiative - Career Compass.

"It's an international first in tackling careers information and job opportunities across the breadth of the travel, tourism and hospitality industries," explains Richard Allen, head of training and business support at ETB. "Tourism is one of the top five industries in the UK, providing 1.7 million jobs - and yet young people still tend to consider it as an option for the second best. We want to show this image as unfair and inaccurate."

But, he admits, it will be no mean feat. The industry has not been good on putting out stories of career successes, and with the rise in the number of degrees specifically focusing on tourism, job-seekers often wrongly assume this is now a prerequisite for any of the decent positions. "In reality, many graduates choose tourism as a career after they've finished university and therefore have completely unrelated degrees. The reason this is not necessarily a problem is because a lot



As a student, Rob Devlin earned extra cash working on the Granada Studio Tour. Now he's entertainments manager. Martin Rickett

of the companies in tourism believe previous experience is less important than the individual's potential. In other words, for graduate recruits, the subject of your degree may not even be relevant.

Indeed, Julie Ashton was running a bar in a popular holiday resort - in which she was turning over £400,000 and was responsible for the development of 14 staff - by the time she was 25, just two years out of university. All this with a degree in fine art.

"My friends started to envy me my immediately - not only because of the status I'd achieved but because the work is such fun. That's exactly what you're there for - to make sure people have fun." But, she claims, it's harder work than she could ever have imagined.

"You have to be available for at least 14 hours a day."

Andrew Palmer of the British Institute of Innkeeping remarks: "In the past, a career in hospitality - which accounts for 80 per cent of tourism - was frowned upon by many as being frivolous. But today's companies need graduates to survive, so they're investing in training and good salaries."

Visitor attractions such as Chessington World of Adventures and Thorpe Park, and hotel chains like Trusthouse Forte, are following suit, creating an environment in which graduates can make an immediate impact. But most companies say graduates must be prepared to pitch in with the mundane jobs to get a feel for what it takes to make the day-to-day operations run smoothly and effectively.

"Chessington has made the work for its staff extremely varied," says spokesperson Charlie Broom. "It can mean doing things managers in other industries wouldn't dream of, but it makes the job far more exciting."

Small wonder that other sectors of the economy are recognising the skills-development that people working within tourism are acquiring, says Richard Allen. "Skills learned in tourism-based industries are transferable. So it's not as if staff are ever putting all their eggs in one basket."

According to Brian Prescott, partnerships development manager of the Travel and Tourism Programme, enthusiasm, ambition, excellent customer service skills and basic business awareness are what the tourism industry looks for. The ability

for candidates to inspire and motivate their team members, have new ideas and deliver more than is expected is paramount - a fact that Sarah Scarritt knows all too well.

"They literally exist from year to year. The Government has to say that tourism is important in order for this problem to be overcome," he claims. "In some areas, it is the biggest industry." In Scotland, for instance, tourism is bigger than the whisky, oil, car and agricultural industries combined in terms of employment. But with little job security, graduates may be put off.

Nevertheless, claims Brian Prescott, with an increase in staff at graduate level, the success of British tourism could grow to such an extent that funding is made more permanent. "It can make a career in tourism even more attractive to graduates because it's more of a challenge," he says.

Rob Devlin agrees. "Trying to help run any business which relies on visitors keeps you on your feet. And that's what makes it so satisfying when it works." It's high time that the negative image of the industry held by so many students, parents and educationalists is seen for what it is, he claims - completely outdated.

**CV**

MARK DIXON



MARK DIXON, 37, is executive chairman and founder of Regus, Europe's largest operator of business centres. He left school to trek around the world in search of learning experiences. He obviously picked up a few things - Regus now has a turnover of £128m.

At 16 years old, when I'd reached the top of my school, I decided that the education system was a little slow for me. I knew that my contemporaries would be going to college and I wanted to have really got somewhere by the time they were leaving.

My first project was setting up a simple business called Dial-a-Snack, delivering sandwiches on a bike. It was great, but I soon realised that if I just earned money without learning anything, I wasn't going to make it. So after six months I sold the business and went off to trek around the world.

The first stop was France. My parents were mortified and thought I had thrown everything away. But I wound up getting a job in Papagayo, probably the most famous bar/ restaurant in France. I quickly learnt everything there is to know about running restaurants and clubs and dealing with lots of people. It was to stand me in good stead for ever.

After eight months, I prepared for my next venture - back-tracking across Asia. Then, at 18, I went walking around Australia, where I also wound up selling encyclopaedias, working in an iron mine, and becoming a lumberjack.

When I got back to England, I started up in the hot-dog van business. I quickly went from having one van to six vans. A

couple of years later I moved into making hamburger buns - that became the third biggest firm, making 8,000 buns a week and employing 100-plus people. It broke my heart, but I sold it after five years for £200,000 - my first big sale.

Next, I decided I wanted to do business in Europe, so in early 1989 I moved to Brussels and looked around for the right kind of business. I opened Regus in September.

There were two main things that attracted me to the idea. First, business centres at that time were catering to small firms, whereas they should have been after middle-sized and big ones. And secondly, the property business was, and still is, one of the last bastions of not "talking to your customer" and finding out their needs. One of our key strategic goals now is to open a centre in every country in the world.

My travelling years really set me up; they taught me how to get things done and be resourceful. There is no safety net. Nothing has daunted me since then. But you've got to have a strict plan. You can't just bum around or you end up wasting your life. I could have stayed in the south of France - it's a good life. But I knew that one day, I'd want something more.

INTERVIEW BY

MARK OLIVER

## Parents without power

AMID ALL the media coverage and the opposing PR offensives, what the Bramleys have highlighted is the powerlessness experienced by foster-parents in the situation that the couple were in last August. The whole thrust of the legislative framework is aimed at protecting the child, and not at helping foster-parents or would-be adopters, no matter how deserving or desperate they appear to be.

The recent move by Cambridgeshire County Council in the much-publicised case of Jade and Hannah Bennett was obviously made with an eye to taking some of the heat out of the opposition to its social services department caused by Jeff and Jenny Bramley's dramatic gesture. It is likely that Cambridgeshire has had to discharge its care orders over both girls in order to invoke the assistance of the High Court's inherent jurisdiction. By doing this, the council has shifted the responsibility of deciding the future of the two girls away from itself and into the High Court - the independent body which the Bramleys sought.

The court has appointed the Official Solicitor to act as guardian ad litem for Jade and Hannah, which ensures that an experienced member of a central government department will investigate all the circumstances, consider what is in the girls' best interests, and make representation to the court on their behalf.

Given the number of natural parents and foster-parents involved, the Bramleys, as parties to the proceedings, may make whatever application to the court they wish through their solicitor, including one to adopt the girls; the girls' natural

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PAULINE FOWLER

parents may be separately represented. In the meantime, no major change will be made without the court's sanction.

The question to ask is: why wasn't this step taken earlier? The Bramleys had been missing for 17 weeks with the two girls before Cambridgeshire social services department - publicly at any rate - started making any contact.

But the legal process the local authority has invoked is unusual - the council had to satisfy the court that the result that the council wanted to achieve could be achieved by the court only through its jurisdiction, and that there was reasonable cause to believe that the children were likely to suffer significant harm if that jurisdiction were not exercised.

Admittedly, the legal remedies open to foster-parents who are unhappy about a local authority's decision to remove a child from their care (subject to a care order) are not extensive. There are a number of possibilities, but the time limits attached to the first two meant that neither was open to the Bramleys.

**■ If the child has lived with them for at least three years, foster-parents may make an application under the Children Act for a residence order. If they do not satisfy the three-year residence condition, they must first obtain the consent of the local authority.**

**■ They can apply for an adoption order - but, without local authority backing, the child/ren must have lived with them for 12 months or more.**

**■ They can apply for an emergency protection order (EPO), which would prohibit the local authority from removing the child. An EPO would buy only eight days' grace.**

**■ They can ask the Divisional Court for leave to proceed with a judicial review of the local authority decision.**

It is also possible for foster-parents to follow the complaints procedure that local authorities have set up, or to ask the local authority to review its decision, and in both cases they can call on the authority to move quickly and to leave the child in their care in the meantime so that he or she has some stability.

But none of these will seem particularly appealing to foster-parents who are aggrieved by what they may well see as impenetrable decision-making by the social services department. Now that the drama of the Bramleys' bid for parental power is being played out within the safety of the High Court, it may be time to consider realistically whether we really want social workers to focus on the welfare of would-be adopters - or on the welfare of the children.

Pauline Fowler is a partner in the family department at Bates Wells & Braithwaite

Britain's top campaigning lawyer is determined to make a difference. By Linda Tsang

## Day of the public is here

MARTYN DAY, a solicitor, is "awkward and bolshie" - and he should know that is his own description of himself. But if you are an individual wanting to take on the nuclear industry, the tobacco industry, or both the Japanese and the British government, he is probably the kind of "awkward" lawyer whom you want

to ask the the judge will look at the case in any depth.

"The judge will look at the merits of the case - and how he deals with the eight lead plaintiffs will be significant. If he threw all eight cases out, it wouldn't be the end: we still have a group who can continue the case. But we would be very nervous if he made that decision."

The tobacco companies are following this case with keen interest. This is one of the first and largest cases to be run on the basis of no win, no fee, or as Day has

called it, "no win, no fee and possible bankruptcy". He estimates that his firm, Leigh Day & Co, and Irwin Mitchell, have

"put up serious money" for this case, investing £3m to £4m in costs and time.

Day also says it is an indication of the commitment of the barristers he has instructed - Robert Owen QC and Brian Langstaff QC - that they are also prepared to act in what may be a six-month trial, and have deferred payment of their fees.

Also, with the recent clamp-down on legal aid, the Lord Chancellor is keeping an eye on the litigation and the way that conditional fees are used in such cases. Day does admit: "If we win, it will persuade other firms to take cases on this basis. But if we don't win, apart from a number of 'I told you so's' for this firm, having persuaded my partners once to do this sort of case, I can't see us doing it again."

Taking on causes like these has led some to describe Day as a lawyer for lost causes. He has challenged British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), and sued ICI and the London Docklands Development Board over public nuisance.

The tobacco litigation is also back on track after numerous cases which potted on for four years revolving around legal aid

February on whether a number of lung cancer victims are time-barred from continuing in the case. Day says: "What is quite crucial for us is that this is the first time that the judge has looked at the case in any depth.

"The judge will look at the merits of the case - and how he deals with the eight lead plaintiffs will be significant. If he threw all eight cases out, it wouldn't be the end: we still have a group who can continue the case. But we would be very nervous if he made that decision."

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The fact that his two major cases are "totally uncharted waters" is what appeals to Day. He is in a position now where he looks for the

chicken to roost against big business. A year ago the health risks associated with mobile phones

looked very speculative, but the evidence is mounting up."

Martyn Day, champion of the underdog Tim Hetherington

Warwick, and came to London to do articles. He ended up at the legal aid firm Bindman & Partners, where he threatened to strike over the low pay of the support staff. He was offered a partnership, but left to set up his current firm with Sarah Leigh. The firm now has 14 partners.

Now 41, and with four children aged between two and eight, he quotes the lawyer whom he considers his role model of sorts, Rodger Pannone, senior partner at Pannone & Partners, who told him to "remember your family; the kids are only young once, and you only have one wife at a time".

Day is also looking at other areas where his firm can "make a difference". It's right and proper that we can use the legal system to bring the chicken home to roost against big business. A year ago the health risks associated with mobile phones looked very speculative, but the evidence is mounting up."

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**BUTTONERS (KNOBBERS)**  
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Services without a  
background in the pre-  
requisites, except that  
a set of six short ch-  
ased and polished original  
of themselves, some  
heritage. Buttons  
with some and Part  
a smallish sink in  
good humour and any  
glare a complete  
the buttons

**DOBERMANN (G)**  
Director of Finance and  
Managing Director of  
Services without a  
background in the pre-  
requisites, except that  
a set of six short ch-  
ased and polished original  
of themselves, some  
heritage. Buttons  
with some and Part  
a smallish sink in  
good humour and any  
glare a complete  
the buttons

**MEET JOE BLACK (G)**  
Director of Finance and  
Managing Director of  
Services without a  
background in the pre-  
requisites, except that  
a set of six short ch-  
ased and polished original  
of themselves, some  
heritage. Buttons  
with some and Part  
a smallish sink in  
good humour and any  
glare a complete  
the buttons

**THE ACID HOUSE (G)**  
An unscrupulous  
entrepreneur with  
a background in the  
pre-requisites, except that  
a set of six short ch-  
ased and polished original  
of themselves, some  
heritage. Buttons  
with some and Part  
a smallish sink in  
good humour and any  
glare a complete  
the buttons

**ANTZ (G)**  
An unscrupulous  
entrepreneur with  
a background in the  
pre-requisites, except that  
a set of six short ch-  
ased and polished original  
of themselves, some  
heritage. Buttons  
with some and Part  
a smallish sink in  
good humour and any  
glare a complete  
the buttons

**THE APPLE (SIB) (G)**  
An unscrupulous  
entrepreneur with  
a background in the  
pre-requisites, except that  
a set of six short ch-  
ased and polished original  
of themselves, some  
heritage. Buttons  
with some and Part  
a smallish sink in  
good humour and any  
glare a complete  
the buttons

**BABE: PIG IN THE CLOTHES (G)**  
An unscrupulous  
entrepreneur with  
a background in the  
pre-requisites, except that  
a set of six short ch-  
ased and polished original  
of themselves, some  
heritage. Buttons  
with some and Part  
a smallish sink in  
good humour and any  
glare a complete  
the buttons

**THE DREAM LIFE OF RICHARD DAWKINS (G)**  
An unscrupulous  
entrepreneur with  
a background in the  
pre-requisites, except that  
a set of six short ch-  
ased and polished original  
of themselves, some  
heritage. Buttons  
with some and Part  
a smallish sink in  
good humour and any  
glare a complete  
the buttons

**ELIZABETH (G)**  
An unscrupulous  
entrepreneur with  
a background in the  
pre-requisites, except that  
a set of six short ch-  
ased and polished original  
of themselves, some  
heritage. Buttons  
with some and Part  
a smallish sink in  
good humour and any  
glare a complete  
the buttons

**ENEMY OF THE STATE (G)**  
An unscrupulous  
entrepreneur with  
a background in the  
pre-requisites, except that  
a set of six short ch-  
ased and polished original  
of themselves, some  
heritage. Buttons  
with some and Part  
a smallish sink in  
good humour and any  
glare a complete  
the buttons

**LITTLE VOICE (G)**  
Hived up in her bedroom  
with her friend Shirley  
impressions when she  
comes clean on her  
Little Voice is redeemed by  
Hornet's vocal pyrotechnics

turned from Cain  
Court Road, Brixton  
Cinema, Clapham Picture  
Odeon, Camden Town  
Marble Arch, Odeon  
West End, Ritzy Cinema,  
Street, UCI Whiteleys, V

**THE MASK OF ZORRO (G)**  
This swashbuckler gall-  
19th-century California in  
Banderas's authentically  
West End Odeon, Kensington  
Odeon, Swiss Cottage, U  
Fulham Road, Virgin T  
West End

**OUT OF SIGHT (G)**  
George Clooney plays the  
a down-and-dirty version of  
the best performance  
West End Plaza, Virgin C

**THE PARENT TRAP (G)**  
The Parent Trap catches  
1981 heart-warmer into  
starring Lindsay Lohan  
birth twin sisters determine  
together West End, Odeon  
Swiss Cottage

**IT (G)**  
See The Independent Rec  
End: ABC Tottenham Cau  
Green, Screen on the Hill

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## NEW FILMS

## BUTTONERS (KNOFLIKARI) (NC)

Director: Pet Zelenka

Starring: Jan Kodek, Bonjov Navratil

Skipping without warning from pre-Bomb Hiroshima to the present-day Czech Republic, Zelenka's curious little portmanteau piece dovetails a set of six short-stories, some wacky, some sad and all implicitly concerned with notions of forgiveness, community and social tolerance. Inevitably, *Buttoners* is a mixed bag, saddled with some duff Forties period details plus a smattering of awkward, amateur-night performances. Still, no matter: Zelenka's droll good-humour and airy idiosyncrasies ensure his film is emphatically more treat than trick. *West End: ICA Cinema*

## DOBERMANN (18)

Director: Jan Kounen

Starring: Vincent Cassel, Tchéky Karyo

Vincent Cassel's born-to-be-bad gangster struts and snorts his way through a gleamingly abstracted Paris. Tchéky Karyo's bad-egg cop looks on balefully. Big guns go off, red sportscars cruise down open freeways, and lily-livered bystanders blub like babies. So this is what the new French cinema is all about: endless stylised carnage and iconic posing, plus a script that's going nowhere fast. Kounen's *en-plein-visage* actioner comes with the thumbprints of *Reservoir Dogs* and *Luc Besson* all over it. But there's no wit, no urgency – no nothing, really, beyond a few neat set-pieces and lots of gurning overacting. Kounen goes a bundle on sudden zooming close-ups. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Metro, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

## MEET JOE BLACK (15)

Director: Marni Bresl

Starring: Brad Pitt, Anthony Hopkins

Picking his way through Brest's underdeveloped overhaul of 1934's *Death Takes a Holiday* goes Brad Pitt's aquiline Grim Reaper, who gets chaperoned round the everyday

Xan Brooks

delights of Planet Earth by Anthony Hopkins's dying billionaire. The introductions complete, Brest throws in a romance (between Pitt and Claire Forlani's soulful debutant), a few airbrushed life-lessons, then leaves his tale to drift along for close on three hours. So while *Meet Joe Black* has a few neat themes, and a relatively solid turn from Hopkins, it's too much a picture of disparate pieces, each played out to their individual lengthy agendas, with no glue in the middle, just vapour. *West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

## THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)

Director: Don Roos

Starring: Christina Ricci, Martin Donovan

See *The Independent Recommends*, right.

*West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End*

## SOUR GRAPES (15)

Director: Larry David

Starring: Brad Bierko, Steven Weber

TV wisdom has it that *Seinfeld* slumped after co-creator David bailed out of the show. Trouble is, the man's feature-length writing effort is no great shakes: a *Seinfeldian* comedy of urban neuroses hinge on the familial spat between Craig Bierko's jackpot winner and the cousin (Steven Weber) who lent him the coins to play the slot-machine. The dialogue is honed and witty, the situations generally funny and tightly rendered. It's just that *Sour Grapes* slowly runs out of breath the further it pushes past the 25-minute length. The insistent score and over-eager acting take on an increasing whiff of desperation. *West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

Xan Brooks

## GENERAL RELEASE

## THE ACID HOUSE (18)

A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh, *The Acid House* plays out in the down-and-dirty landscape of inner-city Edinburgh, and darts with brio between a range of moods and tones. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End*

## ANTZ (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

## THE APPLE (S18) (PG)

Seventeen-year-old Samirah Makhmalbaf's precocious debut stages a true-life re-creation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters. This is a luminous, extraordinary missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. *West End: Metro, Renoir*

## BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

The follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted waifs. *West End: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys*

## THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS (18)

See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: ABC Swiss Centre*

## ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. *West End: ABC Panton Street, Curzon Minima, Odeon Mezzanine*

## ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, probes a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. A big, noisy and effectively claustrophobic conspiracy thriller. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road*

**LITTLE VOICE (15)**  
Holed up in her bedroom, timid Jane Horrocks perfects a shrill Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonation when she falls in with Michael Caine's sleazy impresario. Though bitty at times, *Little Voice* is redeemed by bracing black comedy, Horrocks' vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Caine. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Curzon Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road*

**STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG)**  
A belated Christmas gift for Trekkies the land over, *Insurrection* finds the cinemas stuffed with in-the-know geeks and wrapped up in more cornball romance than we're used to. The nominal story sees Patrick Stewart's do-gooding captain tangling with villainous F Murray Abraham, who's hatched a scheme to take over a planet of perennial youth. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road*

**THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)**  
This swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. *West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

**OUT OF SIGHT (15)**  
George Clooney plays the law-breaking hero as a down-and-dirty version of Cary Grant, and turns in the best performance of his career so far. *West End: Plaza, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

**THE PARENT TRAP (PG)**  
The Parent Trap catches Disney reheating its 1961 heart-warmer into a cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters determined to get their parents (Natalie Richardson, Dennis Quaid) back together. *West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage*

**THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)**  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: Plaza*

**WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)**  
Robin Williams perfects a lopsided simper as the dead chaplie who fights out to a cod-impressionist heaven, before jetting southward to rescue his suicide-bride. *West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue*

## THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)

In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as *The Ten Commandments* by way of *Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat*. *West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

## PSYCHO (15)

Gus Van Sant's shot-by-shot *Psycho* reconstruction is a bizarre undertaking. Hefty Vince Vaughn stands in for twitchy Anthony Perkins, and Anne Heche for Janet Leigh. Meantime, Van Sant simply runs through a karaoke cover-version of the Hitchcock classic; a pitch-perfect bit of movie mimicry which has a definite curiosity value without ever adding up to much more besides. *West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket*

## RUSH HOUR (15)

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker star in this hit-and-miss affair. *West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket*

## THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS (18)

See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: ABC Swiss Centre*

## THE SIEGE (15)

A rare Hollywood attempt to get to grips with contemporary geopolitics. *The Siege* winds up a hopelessly fingers-and-thumbs affair. The plot gets draped with all manner of garbled goings-on as Denzel Washington's FBI man rubs shoulders with Bruce Willis's army renegade. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road*

## SITCOM (18)

Someone ought to introduce François Ozon to a good editor. The début French film-maker is clearly a man of talent, but, in *Sitcom*, he lets his ideas maraud madly off the leash. In this scattergun satire of middle-class mores, Ozon takes abundant pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family. The result is sharp, savage and funny one moment and indulgent the next. *West End: Curzon Minima, Curzon Soho*

## STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG)

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**THE PIP (15)**  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Screen on the Hill*

**THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)**  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage*

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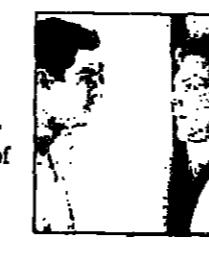
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**THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)**  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage*

## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

## THE FIVE BEST FILMS

## The Opposite of Sex (18)



Christina Ricci plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dede, shouting from the lip and causing all kinds of havoc when she moves in with her mild-mannered brother (Martin Donovan, right). Director Don Roos's script bristles with acidulous one-liners.

## The Truman Show (PG)

Peter Weir's ingenious, unsettling fantasy is, in the end, an escape movie – in the case of Truman Burbank (Jim Carrey), it's breaking out of the round-the-clock TV docu-soap that is his own life.

## π (15)

Darren Aronofsky's debut, filmed in sooty black-and-white, tells the story of a genius mathematician. This stylish indie movie fearlessly combines *Wall Street*, Jewish mysticism and nightmarish headaches.

## Antz (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast features Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely war hero and opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Terrific fun.

## The Dream Life of Angels (18)

Erick Zimna's remarkable début draws its strength from the contrasting natures of Issa (Eliot Bouché) and Marie (Natacha Regnier), whose friendship comes alive amid the drab environs of Lille.

ANTHONY QUINN

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# 16/LISTINGS

**KILBURN**  
THE TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-328 1000) ♦ Kilburn The Fountainhead The 3pm Little Voice 6.30pm, 8.45pm (+ Short: Kings of Star Trek with 8.45pm performance only)

**KINGSTON**  
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston Enemy of the State 2.25pm, 5.15pm, 8.05pm Meet Joe Black 2.15pm, 7.15pm Psycho 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 6.05pm

**MUSWELL HILL**  
ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Highgate Enemy of the State 3.55pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 12.40pm, 4.10pm, 4.10pm, 7.40pm The Siege 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.35pm, 6.20pm

**PECKHAM**  
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Enemy of the State 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm Little Voice 5.05pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm Meet Joe Black 4.45pm, 8.30pm My Name Is Joe 7pm Psycho 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm Rush Hour 9.10pm The Siege 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 5pm

**PURLEY**  
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Meet Joe Black 7.10pm The Siege 5.10pm, 8.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6.10pm, 8.30pm

**PUTNEY**  
ABC (0370 9020401) ♦ Putney Bridge, Putney Enemy of the State 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 1pm, 4.45pm, 3.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm

**RICHMOND**  
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/♦ Richmond Little Voice 2pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Meet Joe Black 12.20pm, 4.30pm, 8.20pm The Siege 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm

**ODEON STUDIO** (08705 050007) BR/♦ Richmond, Brentwood Enemy of the State 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Mask 2.40pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.20pm Psycho 6.30pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm

**RONFORD**  
ABC (0171-9020419) BR: Romford Enemy of the State 8.10pm Meet Joe Black 2.20pm, 7.20pm Psycho 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 5.40pm, 8pm

**ODEON LIBERTY** 2 (08705 050007) BR: Romford Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Land and Girls 6.30pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Mask 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm Meet Joe Black 12.30pm, 4pm, 7.30pm The Parent Trap 12.45pm, 3.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.45pm Psycho 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Rush Hour 8.50pm The Siege 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.40pm, 8pm

**SIDCUP**  
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Brassed Off 11.30am, 3.30pm Meet Joe Black 3.15pm, 7.15pm Psycho 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6pm

**STAPLES CORNER**  
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Crickleywood Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm Little Voice 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.20pm The Mask 2.40pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 1.45pm Psycho 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Rush Hour 8.50pm The Siege 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.40pm, 8pm

**STREATHAM**  
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Antz 1.40pm Meet Joe Black 3.40pm, 7.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.50pm Psycho 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm; 8pm

**ODEON** (08705 050007) BR/♦ Streatham Hill/Brixton/Clapham Common Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.20pm The Prince of Egypt 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm Psycho 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Siege 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm

**STRATFORD**  
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3365) BR/♦ Stratford East Enemy of the State 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm Little Voice 1.35pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 1.30pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm Psycho 4pm, 6pm, 8pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm

**SUTTON**  
UC (0990-888990) ♦ Morden Enemy of the State 3.25pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 3.35pm, 6.45pm Meet Joe Black 4.25pm, 8pm Psycho 4pm, 6pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.40pm, 9.15pm

**SURREY QUAYS**  
UC (0990-888990) ♦ Surrey Quays Baby Pig in the City 4.30pm Baby in the City 3.10pm, 5pm, 8pm, 10pm The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Meet Joe Black 3.30pm, 7.25pm Psycho 6.10pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm

**CARDIFF**  
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399566) The Truman Show (PG) 6.15pm The Acid House (18) 8.15pm Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) 2.30pm, 7.30pm

**BRIGHTON**  
DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA (01273-602503) The Fountainhead (PG) 2pm x [P] (15) 4.15pm, 8.50pm Sogni D'Oro (NC) 6.30pm

**BRISTOL**  
CUBE CINEMA (0114-907 4191) Wild Angels (NC) 8.30pm

**WATERSHED** (0117-925 3845) The Acid House (18) 6pm, 8.25pm Little Voice (15) 6.05pm, 8.35pm

**CAMBRIDGE**  
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Scream (18) 12.30pm Dobermann (18) 2.30pm, 9.20pm Metropolis (PG) 5pm Fire (19) 7.15pm

**CARDIFF**

**CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE** (01222-399566) The Truman Show (PG) 6.15pm The Acid House (18) 8.15pm Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) 2.30pm, 7.30pm

**CHICHESTER**

**NEW PARK FILM CENTRE** (01243-786650) My Name Is Joe (15) 7.45pm, 6.30pm Déjà Vu (15) 4pm Marquise (15) 9pm

**LEICESTER**

**PHOENIX** (0116-255 4854) Henry Fool (18) 6.05pm Rien Ne Va Plus (15) 5pm

**NORWICH**

**CINEMA CITY** (01603-622047) Marquise (15) 2.30pm, 5.45pm The Truman Show (PG) 8.15pm

**WILLESDEN**  
BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) ♦ WilleSDen Green Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (phone for times) The Prince of Egypt 4.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6.45pm, 9.15pm

**WIMBLEDON**  
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/♦ Wimbledon/Brixton/Wimbledon Enemy of the State 2.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Meet Joe Black 12.20pm, 4.30pm, 7.15pm Psycho 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 6.05pm

**WOODFORD**  
ABC (0181-989 3463) ♦ South Woodford Enemy of the State 2.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Meet Joe Black 12.20pm, 4.30pm, 7.15pm Psycho 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

**Woolwich**

CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR/♦ Woolwich Arsenal Psycho 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Siege 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm

**WOOD GREEN**

NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) ♦ Turnpike Lane Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (18) 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm

**Woolwich**

CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR/♦ Woolwich Arsenal Psycho 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Siege 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm

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**Woolwich**



## THURSDAY RADIO

**RADIO 1**  
(97.6-98MHz FM)  
6.30 Zoe Ball. 8.00 Simon Mayo.  
12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark  
Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45  
Newsbeat. 6.00 Cive Warren. 8.00  
Steve Lamacq - Evening Session.  
10.00 Trade Update. 10.30 John  
Pee. 12.00 Andy Kershaw. 2.00  
Emma B. 4.00 - 5.30 Scott Mills.

**RADIO 2**  
(88.9-92MHz FM)  
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake  
Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.  
12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stew-  
art. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00  
David Allan. 8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00  
Barry Took's Comedy Classics. Be-  
yond Our Ken. 9.30 Comedy Show-  
case: The Pig's Back. 10.00 Melly  
Talks Jazz. See *Pick of the Day*.  
10.30 Richard Allison. 22.00 Katri-  
na Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex  
Lester.

**RADIO 3**  
(90.2-92MHz FM)  
6.00 On Air.  
9.00 Masterworks.  
10.30 Artist of the Week.  
11.00 Sound Stories.  
12.00 Composer of Week: Purcell.  
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-  
cert. The second of three recitals of  
Haydn string quartets recorded at  
the Royal Northern College of Music  
as part of 'Haydnfest 99'.  
2.05 The BBC Orchestras.  
4.00 Ensemble.  
4.45 Music Machine. (R)

5.00 In Tune.  
7.30 Performance on 3. Conductor  
Andrew Litton. Peter Jablonski (pi-  
ano). Dan Welcher: Bright Wings  
(first UK performance). Gershwin: Pi-  
ano Concerto in F. Stravinsky:  
Petrushka (1947 version).  
9.00 Postscript: 'A Thoroughly Mod-  
ern Monet'. As one of the original im-  
pressionists, Monet is often thought of  
as primarily as a 19th-century artist,  
but he painted more than 450 paintings  
after 1900. Some of his later work was  
neglected and left in his studio after his  
death in 1926, but Monet's reputation under-  
went a dramatic revival in the 1950s, when crit-  
ics saw a link between his late works and those of the abstract expres-  
sionists. John Balfany, Briony Fer  
and Maryanne Stevens are among those  
exploring the distinctive qualities  
and enormous scale of Monet's last great works. With excerpts from

## PICK OF THE DAY

**THE UBIQUITOUS** George Melly  
(right) chats to the ailing Ian Dury  
about personal jazz favourites in  
a new series, *Melly Talks Jazz* (R2 10pm).

Over on Radio 3's *Night Waves*  
(10.45pm), Paul Allen conducts an  
investigation into the history of the  
human voice, which was at one time  
ridiculously believed to be an expression  
of male potency. Interesting concept.

Nowadays, it's seen as one of the  
unassassable virtues of radio, if *FOR - The Future of  
Radio* (11.30pm R1) is anything to  
go by. This is a mélange of soundbites and archive clips  
which teeters on the brink of being an  
advertisorial. The show nevertheless  
raises important questions about the impact of  
digital technology on the medium.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH



Monet's letters read by Paul Scofield.  
9.25 *A Breath of French Air*. The fa-  
mous trio by Poulenec and a light-  
hearted trio by Franck. Nicholas  
Daniel (oboe), Kim Walker (bassoon),  
Julius Drake (piano). (R)

10.00 *Music Restored*. Lucie Skeap-  
ing introduces a selection of music  
from Spain recorded last October at  
a Radio 3 invitation concert at the  
Royal Academy of Music in London.  
The programme includes Baroque  
harpichord music by Cabanilles and  
Soledar played by Sophie Yates, and  
songs and guitar music from the  
time of Goya by Fernando Sor and  
Federico Moretti performed by Ro-  
drigo del Pozo (tenor) and Jakob  
Lindberg (guitar).  
10.45 *Night Waves*. What is in a  
voice? While one 17th-century thinker  
believed the voice to be an expression  
of male sexual potency and a  
20th-century theorist once called for  
reform against 'phonetic consciousness',  
there is no doubt that the human  
voice is a complex, powerful  
and intensely personal phenomenon.  
Paul Allen explores a many-layered  
story of philosophy and feeling with  
Jonathan Rea, author of *See a  
Voice: Language, Deathness and the  
Senses - a Philosophical History*.  
See *Pick of the Day*.  
11.30 *Jazz Notes*.  
12.00 *Composer of the Week*: Rim-  
sky-Korsakov. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 *Through the Night*.

**RADIO 4**

(92.4-94.6MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

9.00 *NEWS*; In Our Time with  
Melvyn Bragg.

9.30 *Transplantations*. (R)

9.45 *Serial Iris*.

10.00 *NEWS*; *Woman's Hour*.

11.00 *NEWS*; *From Our Correspondent*.

12.30 *Old Dog and the Partridge*.

12.00 *NEWS*; *You and Yours*.

12.57 *Weather*.

1.00 *Six O'Clock News*.

6.30 *Yes, Minister*. (R)

7.00 *NEWS*; *The Archers*.

7.35 *Front Row*. Francine Stock with  
the arts programme.

5.00 *PM*.

5.57 *Weather*.

6.00 *Six O'Clock News*.

6.30 *Yes, Minister*. (R)

7.00 *NEWS*; *The Archers*.

7.35 *Front Row*. Francine Stock with  
the arts programme.

7.45 *Lady Susan*. Drama: 'Lady Su-  
san' by Jane Austen, adapted by  
Lavinia Murray. With Harris Weller  
and Maggie Steed. (9.10).

8.00 *NEWS*; *Case History*. Prof Roy  
Porter reconsiders the performance  
of political figures of the 20th century,  
focusing on British PM Ramsay  
MacDonald and German president  
Hindenburg in the 1930s. Macdonald  
was suffering from depression, his  
eyesight and his mind were failing;  
Hindenburg had retired before the  
First World War and was now in his  
eighties. Were these men fit enough  
to meet the rise of Hitler? (R)

8.30 *The Week in Westminster*.

Boris Johnson of the Daily Telegraph  
takes a look behind the scenes at  
Westminster.

9.00 *NEWS*; *Testbeds*. Vanessa  
Collingridge explores the technologies  
that shape our lives.

9.30 *In Our Time* with Melvyn  
Bragg. Melvyn Bragg and guest dis-  
cuss ideas and events which have  
influenced our time.

10.00 *NEWS*; *The World Tonight*.

With Robin Lustig.

1.45 *Book at Bedtime*: *Nana*. Juliet  
Stevenson reads Emile Zola's novel  
(14/15).

11.00 *NEWS*; *World of Pub*. A four-  
part comedy by Tony Roche. 3:  
Doddy Phil, the man who has put a  
roller coaster in the bar, comes up  
with yet another scheme to improve  
the fortunes of Barry and Garry's  
pub. Special guest Edith Piaf. With  
Phil Cornwell, Alastair McGowan and  
John Thomson.

11.30 *Experimental Feature*: *FOR -  
The Future of Radio*. See *Pick of  
the Day*.

12.00 *News*.

12.30 *The Late Book: Last Resort*.

12.45 *Shipping Forecast*.

1.00 *World Service*.

5.30 *World News*.

5.35 *Shipping Forecast*.

5.45 *Inshore Forecast*.

5.45 *Prayer for the Day*.

5.50 *6.00 Farming Today*.

5.50 *6.00 Farming Today*.

6.00 *Big Boys Breakfast* with David  
Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 *Scott  
Chisholm*. 1.00 *Anna Raeburn*. 3.00  
Peter Deely. 5.00 *The Sports  
Zone*. 8.00 *James Whate*. 12.00 -  
6.00 *Ian Collins*.

## RADIO 5 LIVE

(653.9-599kHz MW)

6.00 *Breakfast*.

9.00 *Nicky Campbell*.

12.00 *The Midday News*.

1.00 *Ruscoe and Co*.

4.00 *Drive*.

7.00 *News Extra*.

7.30 *The Hardest Game*. Continuing  
the series in which former BBC box-  
ing correspondent Harry Carpenter  
reflects on the sport from the 1950s  
to the present day.

8.00 *Inside Edge*. Rob Bonner and  
the team investigate the issues that  
affect the sporting world.

9.00 *Hoops*. Pat Freddy M rounds  
up the latest news from the British  
basketball scene.

9.30 *Sportshop*. Tricia Rawlinson  
presents the sports consumer pro-  
gramme, including sporting investiga-  
tions and news of all the latest  
sporting gadgets.

10.00 *Late Night Live* with Nick  
Robinson. Incl 10.30 *Sport*. 11.00  
*News*. 11.55 *The Financial World*

Tonight.

1.00 *Up All Night*.

5.00 - 6.00 *Morning Reports*.

**CLASSIC FM**

(100.0-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 *Michael Mappin*. 8.00 *Henry  
Kiley*. 12.00 *Requests*. 2.00 *Con-  
certo*. 3.00 *Jamie Crichton*. 6.30  
*Newsnight*. 7.00 *Smooth Classics at  
Seven*. 9.00 *Evening Concert*.

1.00 *Alan Mann*. 3.00 - 6.00  
Mark Griffiths.

**VIRGIN RADIO**

(125.7-126.9MHz MW 105.8MHz FM)

6.30 *Chris Evans*. 9.30 *Mark For-  
rest*. 11.00 *Nick Abbot*. 4.00 *Harriet  
Scott*. 7.30 *Pete & Geoff*. 10.00  
James Merritt. 1.00 *Steve Power*.

4.30 - 6.30 *Richard Allan*.

**WORLD SERVICE RADIO**

(198kHz LW)

1.00 *The World Today*. 1.30 *West-  
way*. 1.45 *Performance*. 2.00 *The  
World Today*. 2.30 *Focus on Faith*.

3.00 *The World Today*. 3.20 *Sports  
Report*. 3.45 *Insight*. 4.00 - 7.00 *The  
World Today* (0400-700).

**TALK RADIO**

6.00 *Big Boys Breakfast* with David  
Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 *Scott  
Chisholm*. 1.00 *Anna Raeburn*. 3.00  
*Peter Deely*. 5.00 *The Sports  
Zone*. 8.00 *James Whate*. 12.00 -  
6.00 *Ian Collins*.

## INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

## CHESS

JON SPELMAN

ON TUESDAY I discussed Panox

from Breda's sterling victory in the

European Club Cup finals in Bel-  
grade. This excellent event

brought together no fewer than

five players rated over 2,700 and 19

who turned up for the eight teams.

In club chess, the players from

each team are ranked in board order

in (approximately) descending

strength with the top boards

facing each other, and so on down

to the bottom. There were therefore

a large number of heavyweight

clashes in Belgrade, and one of

the most intriguing was that

between Alexei Shirov and Vladimir

Kramnik - a continuation of their

theoretical battle in their match in

Cazorla last June.

Kramnik varied with 13 ...Bh4

from 13 ...Nx2 14 Nx2 Qd6 15 h3?

with which Anand ultimately

defeated him in Tilburg last Nov-  
ember 18 ...Ng5 was a concession

but if 18 ...Rx5 19 f3 Nx2 20 Bx2

# THURSDAY TELEVISION

BBC1  
BBC2

ITV Carlton

Channel 4

Channel 5

CONTRIVED COMPETITION

COULDN'T WAIT

THE RADIODRAMA

VIEW

THE THURSDAY REVIEW

The Independent 21 January 1989



**ROBERT HANKS**  
TELEVISION REVIEW

AS A CHILD, I was scared of vampires. I don't know why this was. So far as I recall, I was too young at the time for repressed erotica to have come into the equation. I was desperately fond of imported American comics which featured acts of extreme and, one would have thought, terrifying violence, and I was never much bothered by ghost stories. But an issue of a Marvel comic called *Tomb of Dracula* gave me what I think was the only genuine nightmare of my life.

The thing that most unnerved me was the information that once you have invited a vampire into your house, he can come and go as he pleases and there's not a thing you can do about it. But the other, scarier point about vampires is the sheer mathematics of it all. I worked out that if a vampire fed once a night, and every one of his victims became a vampire, and all these new vampires fed every night, and so on, then it wouldn't be long before the entire world had been turned into vampires. (It's a fibulous sequence – don't ever let anybody tell you that the maths you do at school has nothing to do with the real world.)

Perhaps it's worth saying that I never actually believed in vampires, and now I'm all grown up they hardly bother me at all. But I still can't be altogether rational about them. I suppose this is why, despite knowing on one level

that it's absurd to be a complete sucker for *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (BBC2),

Buffy's Sarah Michelle Gellar is an ordinary California high-school student, who also happens to be the descendant of a long line of vampire slayers and, fairly tamely in that direction

she's out for evil, mainly fanged beings that besiege her home town, which, owing to slack planning regulations, is built on the site of a centre of mystical convergence – a portal for demons to enter our world. To help her, she has her devoted, airheaded mate friend Xander, ergohead Willow, and the school's immortal class (unlike a hereditary watcher, fated to advise and protect a slayer).

The central joke is the discrepancy between Buffy's world-historical mission and

her Valley Girl language and values. Last night, Buffy fell for the new boy at school with an attractively antisocial manner – he can't brood for 40 minutes straight! – to have someone gossip – only to have their first date ruined by the appearance of the Amulet Warrior availed by the local vampires. She has constant homework troubles, and a habit of sporting fangs by the way they dress. "Tier flasher" seems a fitting prediction... I feel the shoulder-pads. It is perhaps not much of a joke, but it is mercifully underplayed, and the whole thing is wrapped up in about nine layers of insulating irony.

Once you've got through all that, though, the core of *Buffy's* attraction is that it offers a basic, uncomplicated battle between cuties, nicely dressed good and ugly, unyielding evil – and good always wins. Buffy's triumph over her arch-nemesis, the vengeful Willow, is a triumph of willpower over a lack of willpower, which is what *Buffy* always sticks to the rules of the genre which make it more winning than *The X-Files* (BBC1). Last week was fun, with Willow and Sunny on Ironie form, running up against trailer-trash vampires with false fangs. At one point, Willow tried to defend herself from a mob of growling-eyed monkeys, by feebly

brandishing in the form of a baguette in the palm of a baguette. Last night, though, we were back in the territory of black-clad, neck-implants and the grand alien conspiracy theory (don't worry if you don't grasp the references: *The X-Files* is the sign of a mispent youth).

The best fantasies are the ones which follow through their own reasoning. The readiness of the X-Files to give house room to any brand of the supernatural can get tiresome, and when it is

exploiting it becomes a matter of sheer endless, not deeply faculites. In that sense, it is a fundamentally cynical programme. *Buffy*, may

try to smell like a dank tomb, but next to this, it's a breath of fresh air.

ROBERT HANKS

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## 2/EDUCATION

# What should we teach children?

Is there a place in the national curriculum for moral, social and political values alongside the three Rs? By Judith Judd

What schools should teach children about morality, the environment, drugs and parenting, and should lessons in citizenship be compulsory? David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, must decide shortly. The latest battle for the curriculum is about to be determined.

At the heart of the debate is a disagreement about the whole nature of education. On the one hand are those who argue that schools should concentrate on the three Rs because children cannot learn anything unless they can read. On the other are the supporters of a broad curriculum who say that we should not窄en children out only about history but also about right and wrong, politics and culture.

The argument goes back more than a century to when the Revised Code of 1862, a sort of three Rs national curriculum had inspectors visiting schools to test standards of reading and writing. Schools were paid according to test results. Matthew Arnold, the poet and inspector, complained that the result was a "mechanical and lifeless" curriculum.

More recently, Kenneth Baker, a former secretary of State for Education, argued: "I wonder when they were developing the national curriculum in the late 1970s, Mrs Thatcher, who, according to Mr Baker, got her views on education from her hairdresser and her cleaner, wanted only English, maths and science to be compulsory. Mr Baker, by contrast, wanted a 10-subject curriculum to ensure that pupils received a broad education. He took the view that, unless subjects were made compulsory, they would not be taught. In the short term, he was wrong, but the curriculum was later slimmed down after teachers held a test boycott in protest.

## Spirituality and standards go hand in hand

### Schools can achieve better results by teaching moral values

WHEN BANDLA Walton took over as head teacher of a struggling Birmingham primary school, she turned first, not to a new strategy for reading and maths, but to a new look at spiritual and moral values. Mrs Walton, head of Allens Croft Road primary school, volunteered for a Government-backed pilot project on teaching on morals and spirituality because she believed it would raise academic standards. She has no doubt of the importance of the project in a school where 70 per cent of pupils have free school meals compared with a national average of 16 per cent, and where a third of the pupils

were on benefit.

Mrs Walton and her staff grasped the values proposed by the National Forum for Values in Education with enthusiasm. They are that pupils should be taught to value themselves, to value others, to value society (truth, freedom, justice, and to value the environment.

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## 6/EDUCATION

**A-Z OF HIGHER  
EDUCATION  
COLLEGES**

**Chester**



**Age: 18+**  
**HISTORY: Established by Gladstone as the first teacher-training college in the country with a Church of England foundation. (Gladstone wrote the deoys under which the college still operates.) It diversified into arts and sciences in the Seventies and into nursing in the Nineties.**

**Address: 32-acre campus five minutes walk from the centre of the walled city of Chester, and 25 miles from Liverpool.**

**Ambitious Mix of Victorian and modern buildings, including divine 18th century chapel, complete with a couple of Old Masters. Strong community atmosphere, because so many students live so close. All facilities on the one campus, including new £1.1m sports hall, student residence. One hall is in the city centre.**

**VITAL STATISTICS: A medium-sized college of higher education, it has 3,000 students, 10 per cent**

**on teacher training courses. Many of the students are local, and one-quarter are over 21 on entry. Overwhelming majority - 78 per cent - are women, as you would expect given the numbers on nursing, midwifery and education courses. Degrees are validated by Liverpool University, although the college has applied for degree awarding powers.**

**Added value: Good reputation in sport, because of strong PE department. Sports facilities include squash courts, gymnasium, swimming pool, tennis courts, all-weather pitch and grass pitches - and the new sports hall.**

**Easy to get into? More difficult in popular subjects, for example, science, English, drama and psychology.**

**Lucy Hodges**

**On average there are 9.4 applicants for each place. Minimum offer for art is CC at A-level, or 12 points, but last year, average points score of students arriving was 19+. Highly selective for teacher training.**

**Glimmering alum: John**

**Carleton and Jon Slighington, English football manager; Jim Bowen, former school teacher, now TV entertainer; Rob Wootton, Capital Radio presenter; Transport links: Good motorway connections to Manchester, Liverpool and North Wales. Or take the bus or train.**

**Who's the boss?**

**Professor Tim Wheeler, former footballer, director of Southampton Institute, an expert in applied psychology.**

**Teaching: Scored 17 out of 24 in drama, dance and cinema; 19 in modern languages; 20 in psychology. Rated sound to good by Ofsted in its sweep of primary teacher training. Did better in inspections of secondary teacher-training - rated good to very good in drama, maths and PE.**

**Financial health: Claims to be in the black.**

**Nightlife: College social life centres on the campus bar. Otherwise, there are three nightclubs in Chester.**

**Turns balls a year.**

**Cheep to live in? Yes, you pay £50 for en suite room, with 21 meals a week. Self-catering in college and private landlords, £25-£30 a week.**

**Buzzwords: "Deva Nine", 122 pubs listed in one night as part of rag week.**

**Next week: Chichester.**

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**Who's the boss?**

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**Teaching: Scored 17 out of 24 in drama, dance and cinema; 19 in modern languages; 20 in psychology. Rated sound to good by Ofsted in its sweep of primary teacher training. Did better in inspections of secondary teacher-training - rated good to very good in drama, maths and PE.**

**Financial health: Claims to be in the black.**

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**Buzzwords: "Deva Nine", 122 pubs listed in one night as part of rag week.**

**Next week: Chichester.**

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**HISTORY: Established by Gladstone as the first teacher-training college in the country with a Church of England foundation. (Gladstone wrote the deoys under which the college still operates.) It diversified into arts and sciences in the Seventies and into nursing in the Nineties.**

**Address: 32-acre campus five minutes walk from the centre of the walled city of Chester, and 25 miles from Liverpool.**

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